

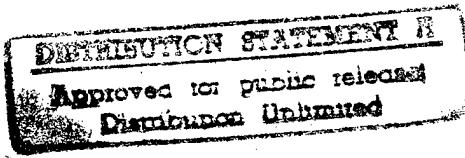
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JPRS 83319

22 April 1983

Latin America Report

No. 2669



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BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION--Mines and Energy Minister Fernando Montero has reported that daily oil production decreased to 160,000 barrels during January due to the break in the oil pipeline caused by floods in the northern part of the country. Montero stated that losses amounting to 40 billion soles were sustained due to the oil production decrease. However, Montero said that oil production currently totals 190,000 barrels because the pipeline has already been repaired. Montero concluded by stating that Peru expects to produce 200,000 barrels of oil daily and to export 20 million barrels of oil. [Text] [PY121859 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 3]

CSO: 3348/313

UTILITIES COMMISSION APPROVES ELECTRICITY RATE INCREASE

Castries THE VOICE in English 23 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] DOMESTIC Electricity consumers in St Lucia are to start paying more for the service immediately.

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) headed by barrister Vernon Cooper has awarded St Lucia Electricity Services and overall three cents per unit increase effective February 1. The Company had applied for a five cents per unit increase, effective last month.

UNDER the PUC award domestic consumers using between 26 and 180 units of electricity per month will pay 2.5 cents per unit more on the basic charge while those using more than 181 units will pay 3.5 cents per unit more.

But the Commission made some highly critical comments in its report on the Company's application which was heard in December.

It said it appeared that substantial amounts were owing to the Company which resulted in a serious diminution of the cash flow required to operate such an important utility.

The most disappointing debtor, the PUC said, was the Castries City Council, which owed more than \$400,000. There were also a few major consumers whose accounts "are long in arrears", the Commission said. Some of these owed between \$58,000 and \$400,000 with Halcyon Days Hotel heading the list.

The Commission lamented that "no strenuous effort" was made to collect these amounts promptly so as to maintain a regular cash flow.

The PUC referred to as "harsh and unconscionable" the 17 per cent interest rate on overdrafts charged by the

Company's bankers. The Company told the Commission its bank overdraft was \$1.5 million. The Commission concluded that the 17 per cent interest on this was "siphoning of the lifeblood of the Company".

The Commission felt that the interest rate was extraordinary in the light of the reduced lending rate in the United States and Britain. It added: "Why the Company is being charged such a harsh and unconscionable rate is beyond our comprehension, but we do find it is high time that these unconscionable rates should be tested by invoking the Money Lenders Act in some cases."

The Commission partly blamed the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), a shareholder in the Company, for its financial situation. It noted that the CDC representative was the Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors.

The Commission also mentioned the sum of \$1 million owed to the Company by various Government departments and another \$160,000 owed by the Central Water Authority.

It reported that the companies providing St Lucia Electricity Services with oil had threatened to withhold

further supplies of fuel "and banish the whole island into darkness if their bills are not promptly paid." This bill was \$2.5 million annually, the PUC report said.

The report added: "One must understand that it is quite a different matter to come to the Public Utilities Commission for an increase in rates where the operating costs exceed the revenue of the company, but little or no effort is being exerted to collect outstanding debts and the public is being asked to agree to an increase in rates or face a shutdown in the electricity supply."

But the Commission regretted the fact that despite media announcements, important organisations like the Chamber of Commerce, trade unions and representative bodies had failed to come before the Commission to give evidence.

It concluded by saying that future applications by the company for tariff increases would have to be viewed critically and the PUC would have to be satisfied that serious efforts are being made to improve the Company's cash flow "and there is a big difference between cash in the bank and cash on paper."

CSO: 3298/471

TEXACO ADDRESSES RETIREMENT ISSUE, PLANS RETRENCHMENT

Negotiations with Government

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

TEXACO Trinidad Incorporated and the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) last night accepted Labour Minister Errol Mahabir's proposals for increased benefits for the early retirement of the oil company's employees aged 58 to 65.

According to a release from the ministry, Texaco accepted all the proposals except one that suggested that the oil company pay the affected employees two and a half months salary for every year of service.

The company felt that this payment was too much, said the ministry.

The union, on the other hand, agreed to all the minister's proposals but wanted two more allowances added to the early retirement benefits packages but these were rejected by the company, said the ministry.

One of the allowances concerned travelling grants, it was learnt.

The OWTU is to meet with the Labour Minister again on Thursday to discuss these latest developments, said the ministry.

Yesterday afternoon both parties gathered at the Ministry of Labour at Riverside Plaza at 2 p.m. to discuss the minister's proposals which were formulated at the request of the union and the oil company and delivered to each before Mr. Mahabir left to attend the Non-Aligned conference in New Delhi, India, two weeks ago.

Yesterday's meeting was the first response from both parties at the Ministry of Labour.

Minister Mahabir met first with the union's representatives which included president-general George Weekes and first vice-president, Errol McLeod and was informed of their position on his proposals and

their further suggestions at reaching a settlement.

The minister then relayed this position to the oil company's representatives who consisted of Texaco's general manager Lloyd Austin and Derek Forrett, personnel manager, among others.

These meetings between the minister and the two parties took place in separate conciliatory rooms at the fifth floor of the ministry.

Following these individual discussions both parties met together under the chairmanship of the Labour Minister.

Speaking at the ministry yesterday before the two parties met, OWTU president general George Weekes said considering the economic situation in the world today the union would go along with the early retirement proposals if the company would come forward with certain benefits.

He said it was the sentiment of some of the affected employees that early retirement was not so unacceptable "as long as they could get something reasonable."

He said approximately 900 workers would be affected if the plans were accepted while other sources claimed that the figure was nearer to 2,000.

He said the union was still of the view that not a man must go but it would listen to the company's proposals.

According to Mr. Weekes, there were certain "weaknesses, omissions and dissatisfactions in

the minister's proposals which we (union) have taken into consideration."

He described the situation as "not too good."

Mr. Austin was not available later for comment.

End-of-March Layoffs

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

TEXACO Trinidad Inc. has advised its 6,800 workers that it intends to go ahead with its retrenchment plan, which is expected to go into effect from the end of this month.

It is understood that 2,100 workers have been earmarked for retrenchment. It is believed that the company will most likely retrench workers in groups spread over a certain period.

The number to be retrenched could not be confirmed by the company. One thing, it was learnt that monthly salaried and weekly-paid workers, including scores of senior oilworkers, are to be affected.

In a circular dated March 22, to its employees, Texaco stated:

"Company proposal for retirement at age 60, which has been under active negotiations with the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, was the subject of further negotiations on March 21, 1983, at the Ministry of Labour, and was again rejected by the union.

"This action by the union leaves the company with no alternative but to proceed with retrenchment.

"The union executive and each affected employee will be notified in due course."

The circular was signed by Mr. C.E. Foskett, manager, personnel division.

The company and the union met on Monday afternoon at the Ministry of Labour under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, Mr. Errol Mahabir and discussed proposals submitted by the minister to resolve the issues relating to reduction of retirement age from 65 to 60 years.

It was reported that there were some areas of agreement but the company was not satisfied overall with the outcome of the discussions.

It was learnt that the company was not satisfied, in particular, with the item dealing with severance benefits as put forward by the ministry.

JANUARY WARNING

In late January this year Texaco had warned that if no agreement was reached on the proposal dealing with reduction of the retirement age from 65 to 60 years the company would consider invoking articles 18 and 19 of

the current industrial agreement.

Those articles deal with retrenchment and redundancy. Article 19 states: "The company shall use its best endeavours to ensure a maximum degree of job security for all its workers to the extent that this is consistent with efficiency.

"The company, having to contemplate retrenchment, will notify the union and will, at their request, discuss such retrenchment which will be effected provided representations are made and discussions concluded within 21 days of the date of notification.

"In the event it becomes necessary for the company to terminate the services of a permanent employee with more than one year service on account of redundancy, the company agrees to make a severance payment.

"If and when such redundancy occurs the company will negotiate with the union the amount to be paid and this will be additional to any other normal benefit applicable in his or her case."

Texaco has already shut down several of its plants at the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery and stopped importing crude for economic reasons.

The company told the OWTU last December that it could not see itself operating beyond the end of January 1983 under the present circumstances.

The company however, held back whatever actions it had planned to take because of meetings with the union and government concerning its operations.

And as the word went around in the oilfield concerning the contents of the circular, workers, particularly at Pointe-a-Pierre, started asking questions: "Who are the ones to go?" Workers have become very concerned over the present situation.

Meanwhile the OWTU is expected to meet tomorrow with the Minister of Labour to hold further discussions re-

garding the issues involved.

Asked to comment on the circular, Texaco said its notice posted on the notice boards at Pointe-a-Pierre yesterday was to communicate with its workers as they normally do on matters of significance on the company's interpretation of the result of Monday's meeting with the OWTU at the Ministry of Labour.

"And the inevitable consequences which must follow in the light of the worsening economic position of the oil industry in general."

With respect to Monday's meeting, the company said: "We remain hopeful that the OWTU will accept the Minister's proposals on the early retirement plan. We are interested to note that another meeting between the OWTU and the Ministry is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 1983, from which we hope a mutually satisfactory agreement will emerge."

The OWTU has called a lunchtime meeting for today to take place at the Pointe-a-Pierre Roundabout to discuss the Texaco circular and other related matters. The union's president general, Mr. George Weekes, will head the battery of executive officers.

The union will also hold two other meetings tomorrow for shop stewards and branch officers to be held at the union's Paramount Building to discuss the crisis in retrenchment facing the workers at Texaco, the continuing uncertainty over their future operations of Trinidad Tesoro and the effects of oil prices as they affect oil workers and other sections of the economy.

The second meeting will also be held at Paramount Building for senior oil workers aged 58 and over.

CSO: 3298/485

NO LAYOFFS AT AMOCO; WAYS TO RAISE PRODUCTION STUDIED

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] WITH retrenchment looming in the oil sector, Amoco Trinidad Oil Company, though affected by last week's \$5 (US) price cut in a barrel of oil, will not be retrenching its work force.

Mr. Robert Powers, Amoco's President and General Manager, said last week that the company had recently taken on several people and its work force now stood at 640.

Mr. Powers felt, however, that Amoco, the country's biggest oil producer, needs a tax cut, and he disclosed that they were among the oil companies now negotiating tax concessions with Government. He added that the marine areas needed tax adjustment urgently.

Mr. Powers said that Amoco would be adversely affected by the 15 per cent price reduction decided on by OPEC in London, but could not say whether the price of Amoco's crude oil would fall comparably. The last price on which tax was paid to the Government for Amoco's crude at December 31, 1982, was \$35 (US) a barrel.

Amoco's production has been

declining over the past few years, from a peak of 140,000 barrels daily in 1978 to the current 79,000 barrels daily. The reason for the progressive slide, he said, was old wells, many of which are sputtering after producing 400 million barrels between 1971 and October last year.

He said to deal with falling production, Amoco has assembled a task force of 20 petroleum engineers, geologists and economists, and they have been studying ways and means of arresting the decline. A preliminary report is due in May.

He added that the present situation demanded two things — reduction of costs and the discovery of more oil. Amoco struck offshore oil in late 1968, after seven years of marine exploration. At present there are 14 Amoco platforms one exclusively producing gas. Amoco, which was given exploration leases in 1961, is the subsidiary of Amoco Production International of Houston, Texas, which in turn is a subsidiary of Amoco Production Company, also of Houston.

CSO: 3298/485

BRIEFS

TALKS WITH OIL PRODUCERS--TRINIDAD and Tobago has laid the groundwork for discussions with the world's top oil producers in the event that the petroleum situation becomes further depressed. Labour Minister Errol Mahabir spoke about the informal talks this country's delegation had with representatives of the Arab countries at the recently concluded Non-Aligned Summit held in Delhi, India. Mr. Mahabir, who headed Trinidad and Tobago's team, flew back home Thursday night and in interview at his San Fernando home said that at the request of Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago also held discussions with that country's team in the Indian capital. Dr. Basil Ince, Foreign Affairs Minister, who was also on the India trip, is returning to Trinidad today having stopped off in London (like Mr. Mahabir) to address nationals of this country living in England. He said: "We held discussions with countries like Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates on the oil situation. These discussions were more or less door-openers in the event that there is need for serious talks in the future. "These discussions were fruitful, given the atmosphere in which they were held..." [Clevon Raphael] [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Mar 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/485

JAMAICAN MANUFACTURERS HIT BY TRINIDAD'S EXPORT ACTION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

CANCELLATION ORDERS were still being received by a number of local manufacturers up to yesterday as a follow-up to a ruling by the Trinidad and Tobago Government that all exports from CARICOM (Caribbean Community) that are on that country's "negative list" be subject to import licence restrictions.

The majority of manufacturers contacted by the **Gleaner** yesterday expressed dismay and concern that Trinidad and Tobago's new licensing regime, coupled with "stop orders" from distributors of Jamaican products in Barbados, would in effect amount to a freeze on trade between Jamaica and her two Caribbean partners.

ONE MAJOR exporter, who yesterday received notices cancelling some \$2-million worth of orders (\$1½-million for Trinidad and Tobago and \$½-million for Barbados), said that although the move by Trinidad and Tobago would create "a serious situation, it might be a blessing in disguise, pushing Jamaican manufacturers into the big league once and for all".

Although his company would be adversely affected in the short run by the cancellation of orders from Trinidad and Tobago, it was by no means "doomed" since there are "third countries that are interested in Jamaican products" and his company is already exporting to some countries outside CARICOM.

"My company is willing to turn its efforts towards the developed countries and by so doing earn even more foreign exchange than is possible by exporting to either Barbados or Trinidad and Tobago," he said.

However, he noted that despite the interest of third countries in Jamaican products the feasibility of making a break-through into such markets was being hindered by "certain elements in the Jamaican economy that make us uncompetitive".

According to him, the high cost of cans, cartons, bottles and raw materials such as sugar, "push the prices of the locally-produced goods way above those of similar goods in third countries, and this is where our major problem is".

Others were not quite as optimistic, however. Another smaller company, which exports only to CARICOM and mainly to Trinidad and Tobago, said yesterday that it was hoping for a "change of heart" that would see Trinidad and Tobago dropping its newly-imposed licensing regime.

A spokesman for the company said that it had current orders of some \$1-million to fill and had already invested thousands of dollars in raw materials to produce the goods required.

"As a small company only just breaking into the export market," he said, "we cannot afford to tie up large sums of capital in raw materials with no turnover of funds to finance our operating costs."

"We are alarmed by this move on the part of Trinidad and Tobago because it has the potential of putting us right out of business. And this is no exaggeration. We all know how import licensing policies work. They are one of the most frustrating of policies that anyone could have to work within and we have the experience of our own system to tell us that.

"But what is even more appalling is that this action comes after similar retaliatory action by Barbados and who knows which territory will be next to close its doors."

Barbados was the first CARICOM country to react to the introduction of the two-tiered exchange rate here when, following their decision to float the Barbados currency against the Jamaica dollar, a number of Jamaican manufacturers who export to Barbados had orders placed or "hold" by their Barbadian distributors pending determination of currency rates to be used as a consequence of the floating dollar.

Barbadian manufacturers have been particularly vociferous in calling on their Government to institute measures to offset some of the disadvantages of Jamaica's two-tiered exchange rate but Trinidad and Tobago, which had initially taken a "wait and see" position calling for discussion at Government to Government and CARICOM Secretariat level, has now begun to take its own action.

CSO: 3298/472

TRINIDAD MANUFACTURERS OFFER TO EASE DISPUTE WITH JAMAICA

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Mar 83 p 20

[Text]

POR-T-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, March 25(CANA):

Manufacturers in Trinidad and Tobago have suggested four "politically acceptable" alternatives short of the ideal solution of totally dismantling the Jamaican parallel currency exchange rate system, currently disrupting intra-regional trade.

The Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA) pointed out that since the parallel rate is calculated on the C.I.F. (Cost/Insurance/Freight) price of their exports to Jamaica, it means that local producers are paying the parallel rate for all their costs, including raw materials, packaging materials, labour, plant overheads, inland freight, profit and sea-freight.

"This new price in Jamaican dollars now becomes the base price landed in Jamaica and when compounded by distributors and retailers margins, the retail selling price is approximately 55 per cent higher than the price before," the TTMA said.

In an analysis of the working of the new system, the TTMA said the Jamaican manufacturer who supplies the domestic market would pay the par-

allel rate for all raw and packaging material which he imports, while other costs would be in Jamaican currency.

The Jamaica manufacturer who sells both on the domestic and in the CARICOM market receives an allocation of foreign currency at the official rate to the extent of 80 per cent of his F.O.B. (Freight on Board) value, the Association said.

And, the manufacturer who sells on the domestic, CARICOM and extra-CARICOM markets, gets an allocation of 100 per cent of his extra-regional exports of F.O.B. value in foreign currency.

IN THIS CASE, the Trinidadians said, 50 per cent of the Jamaican's proceeds in the foreign currency would be his to do as he pleases. He could either purchase raw materials or exchange it for Jamaican dollars.

As a consequence, says the TTMA, the Jamaican manufacturer has several options and advantages over his CARICOM counterparts, especially in the domestic market.

TTMA said the problems could be solved by:

- (a) disallowing the allocation of "official" rate for

eign exchange for exports, (b) forcing Jamaicans to pay for all non-CARI COMS material inputs at the "parallel" rate, excluding whatever leaks from his non-CARICOM allocation, (c) converting all CARICOM exports to Jamaica at the "official" rate, except the content of non-CARICOM raw and packaging materials, which would be converted at the "parallel" rate; and (d) fixing the "parallel" rate for a period of time so as to avoid confusion.

With the CARICOM exports to Jamaica being converted at the official rate, the Trinidad manufacturers say their exporters would have the parallel rate applied only to their non-CARICOM material inputs.

This will encourage the Trinidad manufacturer to purchase local or regional materials, they said.

IN FIXING THE PARALLEL RATE for a period, the Trinidad manufacturers said it must be remembered, that the manufacturer in Jamaica was in a much better position to purchase parallel rate money at a more favourable rate than the

Trinidad counterpart, thousands of miles away.

They said if these suggestions were put into effect, the following would result:

- the concept of encouraging non-CARICOM exports by Jamaican manufacturers would still stand,
- putting the official stamp in the black market for foreign currency would still stand, and
- the CARICOM market would be treated as a domestic market by all countries and trade should not be endangered.

However, the Trinidad manufacturers conceded that their Jamaican counterparts would raise the point that their local raw and packaging materials would cost more because their local suppliers would be buying their inputs at parallel rates, which would not apply to the Trinidad manufacturer.

"We feel," the manufacturers said, "that this disadvantage to the Jamaican manufacturer would be balanced by the leakage of his non-CARICOM foreign exchange into the domestic market raw material inputs".

CSO: 3298/486

BARBADOS' ADAMS VIEWS CURRENCY RELATIONS WITH TRINIDAD

Call for End to Restrictions

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Wednesday, (CANA) — Barbados' Prime Minister Tom Adams, has made a strong plea for oil rich Trinidad and Tobago to relax restrictions on its nationals spending local currency within the Caribbean Community.

Mr. Adams complained in an interview with the Express newspaper, that the Trinidad Central Bank has been very restrictive about money going to Barbados on the ground that the money goes there on its way to Miami.

However, he said that "we enforce the rules in Barbados about Trinidadians not being allowed to remit money to any country except Trinidad more strictly than perhaps we enforce the rules on Barbadians."

Asked if he was suggesting that Trinidad and Tobago return to the policy of allowing its currency to be freely convertible in the region, Mr. Adams said: "Let me put it this way. Barbados, by Trinidad standards, is a poor country. We have no foreign exchange to talk about: Yet, every Barbadian is free to carry up to \$1 500 (Bds \$1 equal 50 cents US) in Barbadian currency to Trinidad to do what he likes with it."

He added: "And when the Trinidad Central Bank presents it to us, we have to buy it back. If we can afford to do that with foreign exchange holdings of \$200 million, I would like to think that Trinidad with foreign reserves of \$6 billion could allow its citizens a little latitude in coming to Barbados with money."

Barbados had first made its call for Trinidad and Tobago to put its currency back on the open regional market last September through Central Bank Governor Dr. Courtney Blackman.

However, soon after, Trinidad and Tobago's Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Senator Anthony Jacelon, declared that there was no way the country would go back to the days of open conversion because of the large scale leakage of funds.

Prime Minister Adams, illustrating the stringency of the Barbados rules in relation to Trinidadians and foreign exchange, related an incident in which he claimed a Trinidad businessman wanted to buy a store in Barbados and was willing to pay cash in Barbados currency which he had in a suitcase.

Commitment to Floating Currency

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Mar 83 p 3

[Text]

POR-T-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Thursday (CANA) — Barbados' Prime Minister, Tom Adams, says his country will stick by its decision to float its currency against the Jamaican dollar, the Express newspaper here reported.

The Barbados action was taken in retaliation to Jamaica's decision last January to set up a two-tiered currency exchange system that resulted in a more than 50 per cent hike in the retail prices of Barbadian goods on the Jamaica market.

Jamaica reacted to the Barbados decision by suspending dealings in Barbados currency.

Since then, governors from regional Central Banks have met in Trinidad and said suggestions have been made, but no action has been taken to restore normalcy to intra-regional trade. Jamaica has said it will not dismantle the new system.

And, Mr. Adams, told the Express: "Barbados has taken a decision and nothing has happened so far to dictate an alteration of

that decision."

He added that it was expected that the Caricom Multi-lateral Clearing Facility (CMCF), the body that regulates trade in the region, will continue bilateral and multi-lateral discussions with Jamaica and her trading partners "and a solution may be arrived at in the fullness of time."

Asked if the Barbados action was in breach of International Monetary Fund (IMF) regulations as suggested by Jamaica, Adams said the IMF was guilty of breaking its own rules as it must have done in allowing Jamaica to introduce the two-tiered system.

"We certainly have not had any complaints addressed to us from the IMF about the matter," Mr. Adams said, adding: "It hasn't been raised or discussed."

He explained that "one or two" items have been exempted from the Barbados currency float, such as government payments "but commercial transactions will proceed on a bilateral basis."

CSO: 3298/486

CARIBBEAN LABOR LEADER EXAMINES ONGOING UNION STRUGGLE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] Secretary-Treasurer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), Mr. Burns Bonadie, has been commenting on the ongoing struggles of the labour movement in the Caribbean.

He said that the trade union movement needed a clear vision for it to survive and that if that vision was lost it would cease to be a free, democratic institution "and our people will perish."

Mr. Bonadie was last Monday addressing the opening of a week-long seminar on "Trade Unions and National Development" at the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) Labour College.

He declared that West Indian people have been credited with having the shortest memories of all people in the world, hence our leaders exploit this characteristic in their dealing with the trade unions.

"The ease with which we all seem to have forgotten the brutal executions of trade unionists and other leaders in Suriname, the way we ignore the attempts to erase the work and memory of a great Caribbean trade unionist and statesman, Robert Bradshaw, by the authorities in St. Kitts-Nevis and the obsession with

portraying the trade union as the roof of all our economic problems, in our respective countries are but a few examples."

Mr. Bonadie indicated that trade unions' achievements are either taken for granted or "lost" in headlines.

He said that last weekend he heard a radio report that for Third World countries, Trinidad and Tobago and St. Lucia had the highest percentage of man-hours lost through strikes, according to statistics compiled by the International Labour Organisation.

But, according to Mr. Bonadie, the media never mentioned that St. Lucian workers had taken strike action to prevent a rather chaotic situation from continuing in their country.

"...a country in which you had three and a half Prime Ministers in three and a half years, and a country that was going to shambles while people fought to see who would be the new Prime Ministers, the unity of the trade unions in their determination to prevent further decline and preserve the democratic process in the same country was lost in the

news headlines," Mr. Bonadie said.

He noted that some well known political leaders also took advantage of the short memories of the labour movement.

He said the Political Leader of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) in Guyana, who is also leader of that country's largest trade union, called on the CCL to investigate what he termed abuses of the trade union by the Government of Guyana.

Mr. Bonadie said when trade unionists were executed in Suriname that same leader supported the action of the military and called those killed "vipers who should be eliminated:

"In one breath he calls for help and in another he supports worst actions," the CCL official said.

Mr. Bonadie submitted that for trade unionists and trade unions to participate in National Development they must be free and this freedom must not contain itself to national boundaries.

"As a Caribbean people it is imperative that we be our brother's keeper" he said.

CSO: 3298/486

IDB REPORT; 1982 A POOR YEAR FOR S. AMERICA, CARIBBEAN

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

Barbados and other Latin American economies experienced another year of stagnation in 1982, the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) has said in its 1982 report.

Real output in Barbados fell by five per cent during 1982 after a three per cent fall the previous year, and the IDB document said that the slowdown which began in 1980 contrasted sharply with the long-term buoyant performance of the region.

The IDB said that the second large increase in the price of petroleum which occurred in the 1979-80 period and which was accompanied by weakened demand for the region's principal exports, exerted a severe negative impact on the regional economies.

The Bank also revealed that Latin America's growth pace during the 1975-80 period was sustained by an extraordinarily heavy resort to

borrowing in the external financial markets.

Apart from Barbados, the other English-speaking IDB member-states are Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The IDB said that the world's economic climate had touched nearly every country in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In five of them — Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Chile and El Salvador — the 1982 per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was from 10 per cent to 17 per cent lower than the 1980 level.

In five others — Brazil, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, and Uruguay — it was from five per cent to 10 per cent lower.

Of the remaining countries only Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago showed improvements in their per capita GDP in excess of five per cent over the two-year period.

CSO: 3298/486

ACLM DANGER: GOVERNMENT URGED TO TAKE FIRM STAND

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 19 Feb 83 p 6

[Article by "The Watchful Eye": "The Un-Timely Birth of the ACLM Red/Boy 99/C. Target"]

[Text] The failure of a letter to reach one of the ACLM [Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement] top men in Cuba, had sparked off a big row in the inner circle of the rank and file of the ACLM

On the 7-1-83 a young girl went to the G.P.O. in St. John's to post a letter to a certain youth of the ACLM in Cuba via Grenada. The girl was asked by the clerk at the Post Office, why all these numbers on the front of the letter? And who is the sender?

The girl looked around and said to the clerk that she will be back, the girl left and Post Office by the north door, went to a vegetable tray to buy some French Cabbage and Lettuce, the girl then took a taxi outside Brysons. While getting into the car, the girl dropped some letters. The wind came and took them into the gutter, a white lady went to the aid of the girl by helping to collect the letters from the gutter water.

What the girl did not know is that one letter was left floating under a car. When gone the letter was picked up and read. Inside the letter were code numbers and names. Let us look at one such code, like Red/Boy 99-C. Flash-Basin Target the "Birth". Attention R.B 677 G.C.YX Building T.C. Room R.R.

The next interesting thing in the letter is these words, Hill Side Operation Baby-Boy.

The rest of the letter was talking about a motor and blades for the Solar System, and that there is

no money, for the bakery is not doing so well, and that Selvin Walter is doing damn good, and we must anticipate of teaching him a lesson. The letter went on to speak about the re-trial of George Walter and how Robert Hall came to the ACLM asking them to link up with the PLM to fight the UPM.

The 2 page letter went on to speak of Bird will soon resign, because his health is unstable and that the ACLM must be ready to harassed everyone till the govt. crumbles.

The letter went on to thank the boys for sending

the gift of \$158,431.00 to help buy the necessaries from overseas. And said that the man in Antigua is helping them with information as regarding the movement of govt.

The letter ends in asking for more funds to buy more beef and sheep, and to help off-set the loss in the paper. And that the movement needs a mini-bus to take members to various meetings.

On the 22-2-83 at 11.15 am the letter was dropped at the corner of Cross and Tanner Streets by the People's Food Store. A lady picked up the letter, looked at it and took it inside the shop in less than two minutes.

one woman came out and went upstairs into the H.Q. of the ACLM. That was the end of the letter.

The question one must ask is do this govt. aware of what is going on in the minds of those ACLM boys? From the contents of the letter no matter how one may look at it, there is a threat over this country. And I am saying that it is high time that we the people of this country open our eyes as to what is going on.

The time has come for us to stand firm behind our govt. and tell all those who wanted power to go to hell. The birth of the ACLM is not foretold and will never be.

CSO: 3298/473

ARMY COMMANDER ON STRIKES, AMNESTY LAW, ARMY REORGANIZATION

PY251330 Guenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1818 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Cordoba, 23 Mar (DYN)--Today Army Commander Gen Cristino Nicolaides expressed his opposition to "political speculation which is based on disruptive statements" and announced that militarymen "will not limit themselves to only listening to criticisms or repudiating offences; but are ready for action." At the same time Nicolaides disclosed that he will meet with the other commanders and President Reynaldo Bignone to discuss the strikes scheduled for Monday.

At noon today General Nicolaides delivered a strong speech to military personnel at the army garrison located in this province and later on held a brief press conference with local journalists. This afternoon Commander Nicolaides will return to the federal capital thus ending a 2-day visit to Cordoba.

When the journalists asked him his opinion on the general strike ordered by the two national labor unions for next Monday he said he had only learned about this decision here in Cordoba.

He said that "I am going to discuss this issue with the other commanders and the president of the nation when I return to Buenos Aires" and added that "I reserve my personal opinion."

In referring to the economic measures recently implemented by the government at the suggestion of the military junta he stated that "an agreement was reached regarding the analysis carried out by the junta, the president and the economy minister and now work is being carried out on some adjustments on this agreement; for the time being there are no disagreements" he pointed out.

Regarding the electoral process he stated that "the army is not promoting any ideas or proposing any names; it is maintaining an impartial attitude."

He once again denied rumors that the army had contact with former President Maria Martinez de Peron which he called "something impossible to arrange and pointless."

Concerning the possibility of advancing the date to hand over power he said that no "changes in the date" can be foreseen because "it is in the hands of

"the president of the nation and that if the political parties themselves make any suggestions the president will analyze them and the issue will then be discussed by the military junta."

Nicolaides declined to make any statement on what percentage the salary increase would be because he had no "definite figures."

The commander then pointed out that the fact that the anniversary of the military process will only be commemorated with a mass is due to nothing in particular but only to the current Argentine situation.

Nicolaides pointed out that "the top national leaders (politicians) are beginning to recognize their responsibility" and that "constructive criticism is necessary in order to change behavior" but that "offenses and insults, especially those launched against persons and institutions are something quite different."

He admitted that "something is being done" about a future amnesty law for "the excesses committed during the struggle against subversion" and that "a law which will be called a 'law of national appeasement,' which in principle will allegedly contain a solution to project us towards the future, free of any more problems and free of the vestiges of subversion which permanently burden us, is also being studied mainly by the army and a joint team."

As for the trial of those persons responsible for committing excesses, he stated that "some of those abuses have already been punished and that the commission in charge of investigating the crimes are already purging those who have been found guilty and who are being tried by military courts."

Further on he stated that there will be no military promotions at the end of the year.

When he was asked about the navy's decision to never again interrupt a democratic government and his previous statements in which he refrained from giving an opinion Nicolaides stated: "I fully ratify what I said previously."

When he was asked about the air forces' decision not to decorate its war veterans and only decorate those who were killed or wounded during the war over the Malvinas, as opposed to the army and navy's decision, he stated that "he respected the decisions taken by the other forces; the air force knows what it is doing and I respect its decision."

He reiterated that the military junta had approved the president's stance at the New Delhi summit and pointed out that "the general staff is permanently" working on the reorganization of the army taking the Malvinas war experiences into account. He commented that as a consequence the use of infrared sights, radars and other elements is being studied.

When he was asked, "What purpose has the national reorganization process served," he answered that "it served many purposes, many of which can only be explained by those who experienced them." Nevertheless, he admitted that

'HERALD' SCORES CLERIC FOR CRITICIZING PLP GOVERNMENT

Nassau THE HERALD in English 10 Mar 83 p 2

[Text]

THE BAHAMAS is blessed with a rich Christian heritage. For generations the church and its leaders have served as spiritual and moral bulwarks against the viles that often beset small, developing countries. In more recent times, sadly, some clergymen have discarded their divine calling and have dabbled in politics without shame or apology. Last Sunday's televised sermon by the Reverend Charles Smith was, to say the least, a political speech dressed in scriptural language.

WHEN ~~REV.~~ SMITH admitted during his sermon that he was "stepping on dangerous grounds" he knew what he was talking about. It was dangerous for him to say that "what is happening here is the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer and our people are dying." Not only was that statement dangerous, it was simply fallacious. If Rev. Smith had taken the time to assess his own wealth and new affluence over the last 16 years he would have had to admit that many of the once-poor have become richer under the P.L.P. Government.

IN ADVOCATING the introduction of income tax in The Bahamas, Rev. Smith's statement that "I have always believed that in The Bahamas, we have the most ungodly and unrighteous taxation of any country in the world, and it is time the Government sit down and look at our taxation system so that the country can progress", is a raw bit of political drivel that could just as well have come from the poisonous pen of Etienne Dupuch, Janet Bostwick or even Father

Addison Turnquest.

YOU TALK about an ungodly tax system, Rev. Smith? Do you know anything at all about the tax system in Sweden or Canada? Do you know anything at all about the income taxes, withholding taxes, capital gains taxes, estate taxes, state taxes, and city taxes that are levied on an individual in the United States? Does it occur to you at all that a person earning \$30,000 per year in the United States takes home roughly \$22,000 of this sum; the remaining \$8,000 goes into the hands of Uncle Sam or some other Big Daddy. So, what in God's name is Rev. Smith talking about?

PRESUMABLY, you were given a Divine anointment to preach God's everlasting Gospel, Rev. Smith. You were not, to our knowledge, given a political appointment to engage in turgid broadsides against the Government. Yes, Rev. Smith, you stepped on dangerous, non-cleric grounds. You should watch your steps 'cause "God don't like ugly".

although "many positive things" have been achieved, "many mistakes have been made."

In his message entitled "An Appeal to the Cadres for a National Pacification" read to the officers, the commander pointed out that "the Argentine nation fought a cruel war against subversion" and that the armed forces "fought against terrorism in an attempt to wipe it out" and "managed to eradicate violence and terror from our land."

After referring to the current "peace" and "security" prevailing in the country, he stated that "after many years of struggle, the republic is now experiencing the difficult phase which leads to the full implementation of the institutions and definite establishment of democracy within the framework of unrestricted respect for the national constitution."

He called for "stability and firmness" in the political system and asked for "a genuine and profound national pacification." He described it as "a pacification finally wiping away hatred and mistakes; overcoming resentments and accusations; covering unconstructive disputes and unjustified offences, under the cloak of the magnanimity of a true reconciliation based on solid Christian convictions and put at the service of the high interests of the republic."

He stated: "It should be an effective and fruitful pacification which frees the spirits from the anguish, uncertainty and fear of a renewal of death and violence; which makes it possible to expand activities and overcome distrust; which makes up look toward the future, overcoming the hard experiences we have gone through and replacing vengeance and lack of understanding with a generous attitude of fraternal cooperation."

He then stated that "nothing will be solid and strong, lasting and stable, if we continue exhausting ourselves in sterile confrontation and in the mean attitude of mutual distrust." He added: "We know that we have made mistakes and shown weaknesses and shortcomings; we fully and humbly admit them."

He further said that (the military) accepts "earnest and constructive criticism" with "the same readiness that we reject political speculation which relies on preachments that tear down or are vague abuse which leads to skepticism and to the weakening of the republic through weakening its basic institutions." He stressed: "But we will not limit ourselves to listening to the criticism or rejecting the abuse; we are ready for action."

Nicolaides stated that "we will strive with all means to see that proper punishment is meted out to those who have broken the law. It will obviously be the task of the courts to establish guilt and punishment according to the trial rules in force."

In conclusion, Nicolaides asked for the "conciliation of wills" and expressed his "faith in the success in this vital enterprise." The army commander, who arrived in this province yesterday morning, visited and inspected the army units in this city and held converences with the headquarters staff of the III Corps whose commander, Maj Gen Eugenio Guanabens Perello, accompanied him during the visit.

CSO: 3348/314

HOUSE NAMES SELECT COMMITTEE TO PROBE VIOLENCE IN ELECTIONS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 18 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpt]

TWO CABINET Ministers were among five members of the House of Assembly appointed by Speaker Sir Clifford Darling to a select committee to investigate violence with opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs as chairman.

The Ministers named to the committee, which ended two days of debate, were Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Arthur Hanna, and Minister of Housing and National Insurance Hubert Ingraham.

Also appointed were Free National Movement MP for Montagu, Orville Turnquest, and Progressive Liberal Party MP for Cat Island, Ervin Knowles.

The Committee was appointed by Sir Clifford after the unanimous consent of the House at 8:20 pm.

The committee is to investigate violence and its relationship (if any) to politics during the period 1970-72, particularly the events of Lewis Yard, Grand Bahama, the 1970 no-confidence vote in the Prime Minister in the House and the Perpall Track murder of Barry Major.

The mover for the committee's appointment, FNM Chairman and Pine Ridge MP, Cecil Wallace Whitfield, was the last person to speak on the motion.

The appointment of two Cabinet Ministers is the first

time in many years that Cabinet members have been included in a select committee of the House.

Speaker Sir Clifford Darling said a lot of information was given to the House and the nation during the debate on the appointment of the committee to "investigate political violence and crimes in the Bahamas during 1970-72."

"I believe," Sir Clifford told the House, "this is the most important committee I have appointed during my six years in office as your Speaker."

Sir Clifford said it was his hope that the committee would bring back a "true report" to the House "whereby we can set the record straight not only for this House, but also to set guidelines for the youth of our nation, who will one day be our future parliamentarians."

"All of us were elected as honourable men to serve this young nation; therefore let us uphold the dignity and principles of this ancient parliament, striving always to move forward, upward and onward together with love and respect for the political views of each other," Sir Clifford said.

Winding up the two-day debate, Mr Whitfield questioned the motive of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling for seconding the motion and proceeding to read statements of three convicted and

executed murderers and a living former supporter of the FNM.

Mr Whitfield said this former FNM supporter, Ernest Barry Thompson, now occupies a plush office downtown and enjoys the protection of the authorities.

The executed killers, whose statements were read by the Prime Minister were Wendell "Red" Burrows and Philip "Polka" Homes, hanged in October 1974, for the August, 1972, murder of FNM supporter Raymond Barry Major; and Errol "Claw" Dean, hanged in 1976 for the 1975 murder of Detective Inspector Henderson Norville.

He said the Prime Minister as a lawyer should know that the statements of the dead men are of no evidential value and can only slander a person.

In some of the statements, Mr Whitfield was alleged to have ordered the burning and beating up of PLP supporters and to have Major "fixed up."

The men from whom statements were taken, were allegedly part of the FNM's security force during the 1972 general elections.

Mr Whitfield wanted to know where the Prime Minister got the statements from because they were not made during the trial of the men and, therefore, could not be on the Supreme Court files.

He said that if he got them from the police, then by what authority did he get them?

He said it was amazing to see a pamphlet which was distributed door-to-door during the 1982 campaign attacking FNM leaders over the 1972 murder of Major, containing statements made by the dead men.

He said he did not believe

Mr Jeffrey Thompson who ran against him for the PLP in Pine Ridge, would stoop so low.

He also said he did not believe that North Andros MP Loftus Roker, would stoop so low. The pamphlets were distributed in the two mentioned constituencies.

He asked whether the statements Sir Lynden read came from the Prison file, and if so by what authority, or whether from the Royal Prerogative of Mercy Committee, to which a Minister of the Government had access?

"This abuse of power is the most disturbing feature of them all," Mr Whitfield said, questioning the Prime Minister's motive for reading the statements, which he called inadmissible in a court of law as evidence.

At the time of Major's death, Mr Whitfield said FNM public relations officer, P Anthony White, had said that the killing had been done by PLP warlords. He himself believed it - until Humes and Burrows were charged with the murder - and he was "shocked."

Before closing Mr Whitfield, on behalf of a Miss Virgil of West Street, denied that she called Youth Minister Kendal Nottage a "sissy" and pelted him with a sour lime.

Mr Nottage, who made the allegation in his address on the violence debate yesterday, reiterated that he did hear Miss Virgil call him a "sissy" and that he was hit by a lime thrown by her.

Mr Whitfield, who told the House that he thought the Minister was mistaken when he made the charge, said he only spoke on her behalf as she could not defend herself or answer the accusations.

CSO: 3298/489

THREE SELECT COMMITTEES TO STUDY EMPLOYMENT, WELFARE ISSUES

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 3 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

HOUSE OF Assembly members voted Wednesday for the appointment of three government-sponsored select committees after the first full day of debate since the Christmas suspension.

The committees appointed were: to consider the social security and welfare services; labour and industrial relations; job creation and employment; and ways and means by which young talents can be productively mobilised in the effort of national development.

Appointed to chair the youth talent committee was St John's MP Peter Bethel (PLP), with Fort Charlotte MP Valentine Grimes (PLP) St Michael's MP George Mackey (PLP), Carmichael MP Frank Watson (FNM) and Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes (FNM) as members.

Mr Mackey, who is also Deputy Speaker, was appointed to chair the Social Security committee, which has as members Bain Town MP Dr

Norman Gay (PLP) Salem MP David Knowles (PLP) Yamacraw MP Mrs Janet Bostwick (FNM) and High

Rock MP Maurice Moore (FNM).

Salem MP David Knowles, who recently resigned as parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Labour, was appointed to chair the Labour committee whose appointment he moved yesterday.

Other members are: Northern Long Island and San Salvador MP Philip Smith (PLP) Rock Sound MP James Moultrie (PLP), Marco City MP C A Smith (FNM) and Official Opposition FNM Leader Kendal Isaacs, MP for Delaporte.

Also yesterday, Speaker Sir Clifford Darling communicated to the House a certificate sent by Election Court judges Sir Dennis Malone and Mr Kenneth Henry saying that Holy Cross MP Charles Carter retained his seat following the dismissal of a petition against him by defeated FNM candidate Cedric Parker.

Sir Clifford also congratulated Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling on being so "distinctly recognized" by Her Majesty the Queen, who had bestowed a knighthood on him.

CSO: 3298/489

TEACHERS UNION ASSAILS GOVERNMENT OVER EDUCATION POLICIES

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 Mar 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

"GOVERNMENT should first provide adequate facilities so young people can be educated with dignity if they really want to nurture positive attitudes in them, the Bahamas Union of Teachers said Sunday.

"Secondly, they can set the example of hard work, efficiency and thrift in Government," the union said in a press statement in response to criticisms of irresponsible behaviour made against the union in parliament last Wednesday by Youth Minister Kendal Nottage.

"If the Minister and his colleagues really want to nurture positive attitudes in our young people they can begin to do so by firstly providing adequate facilities so that our young people can be educated with dignity," the union said.

It said government can also encourage the tolerance of ideas and opinions which differ from their own.

"Fourthly, and perhaps more importantly, the government through sensibly planned policies can make it possible that all our young people can be gainfully employed," the union said.

During last week's debate in the House of Assembly, Mr Nottage criticised the BUT and opposition FNM for displaying "negative examples" of leadership by supporting February's protests by C C Sweeting students.

Mr Nottage said that to mobilise the productive talents of young people, those with responsibilities, must be careful of what they do in terms of example and leadership.

In its response yesterday, the union said that the "assinine utterings" of Mr Nottage are typical of what passes for government in the Bahamas today.

It accused Mr Nottage of trying to blame the union for the fact that "after 16 years as the government, the education system is a shambles, and Bahamian young people are refusing to be duped by the ongoing stream of empty promises, and are becoming alienated from the system."

More particularly, the union said, after five years as Minister he has "few tangible achievements to show for it."

The union said the Minister's statements also show that he and his colleagues are politicians first, second and last, without even the suggestion of being statesmen.

"They accept no responsibility for the fact that very little works in the country even though they have controlled things for the last 16 years.

"After all, there is always some union to be blamed, some public servants, whom it is claimed frustrates the government, and in the final analysis they can always blame an opposition which they

pretend to hold in contempt," the union said.

Saying the Minister tried to chide the teachers for being irresponsible when they struck in 1981, the union noted that the Minister has conveniently forgotten that for years teachers have raised money, and used their own money to patch up dilapidated buildings and buy teaching materials.

The union said it was precisely to demonstrate their responsibility that teachers took to the streets to expose a system that had become intolerable, and one on which reason and argument seemed to have little impact.

"It is precisely for the same reason that the students of C C Sweeting have also taken to the streets," the union said.

It also pointed out that the Minister claimed the demonstrations at the Broadcasting Corporation prevented him from doing his job.

"This is an interesting observation, because that particular episode was probably the only bit of honest reporting on the teachers' strike done by TV-13," the union said.

It said that viewers were able to see an orderly, almost jovial

demonstration by teachers and not the raging mob of management's commentary.

Viewers were also able to see the support given to the teachers by the employees of the Broadcasting Corporation.

"The Minister now tells us that the reason for this was because he was unable to carry out his usual function." This function, the union claims, is "censoring the news." "No wonder the Bahamian people have little regard for what they see on ZNS TV."

The union found the Minister's own concept of responsibility a very strange one.

"He suddenly discovers, two years later, that teachers struck illegally, and the government did nothing," the union said. "Surely a responsible government would have acted to ensure that our laws were observed."

"Of course this is in keeping with the government's concept of responsibility, for in which other country does the government take to the street and demonstrate against private companies?" it asked. "Responsible governments do not cure social ills by demonstrating, they do so by legislating."

CSO: 3298/489

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION--IN the first quarter of 1982, 487 construction permits with an estimated value of \$33.6 million were approved for New Providence, compared with 296 valued at \$14.7 million in the same period of the previous year. The majority of these permits (448) were for the construction of private homes; 37 were for commercial or industrial establishments, and two (2) permits were issued for the construction of public buildings. IN Grand Bahama for the first quarter of 1982, the number of construction permits granted increased by 64.3% over the same period of 1981 from 42 to 69. The increase in value was from \$3.8 million to \$7.4 million or 94.7%. IN the Family Islands for the first quarter of 1982, there were 106 permits valued at \$4.1 million approved compared with 67 valued at \$2.3 million in the first quarter of 1981. Of these, there were 25 permits valued at \$1.3 million in Abaco, 28 permits valued at \$835,000 in Andros and 29 valued at \$814,000 in Eleuthera. THE report also shows that during the first quarter of 1982, 276 buildings valued at \$19.1 million were started in New Providence compared with 220 valued at \$61.9 million in the first quarter of 1981, and 151 were completed at a value of \$17.0 million, compared with 133 valued at \$8.7 million in the first quarter of 1981. IN Grand Bahama, construction was started on 59 buildings valued at \$6.2 million with 19 valued at \$1.6 million recorded as completed, during the first quarter. [Nassau THE HERALD in English 10 Mar 83 p 6]

CSO: 3298/489

DLP'S HAYNES CHARGES COUNTRY DRIFTING TOWARD DICTATORSHIP

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Mar 83 p 2

[Text]

BARBADOS is gradually drifting toward a dictatorship.

This charge was made yesterday by Opposition member, Dr. Richie Haynes, during his contribution to the debate on the Administration of Electoral Laws section of the 1983-84 Estimates.

Haynes, resuming his speech at the beginning of the afternoon session of the debate, declared he was concerned about the undermining of the electoral system, the buildup of the military and the drifting of power away from Parliament, all of which he stated were the growing signs of a dictatorship in the island.

"We must be concerned about these problems," he stated, adding that where the administration of electoral laws was concerned, now was the time to ensure that mistakes made during the last elections were not repeated.

The Opposition member for St.Michael South-Central said a boundaries commission had to be set up and a correct and updated list of all eligible voters made.

He noted that the electoral list sent to him earlier this year contained more errors than that list issued at the last election and on it were the names of many persons not eligible to vote.

Haynes said that during the last elections "thousands of Barbadians" were "functionally disenfranchised" when they found their names were not in their home districts.

He added that a number of elected persons won their seats "by a few votes" and since they knew there were a number of people in their constituency who didn't vote, they "must feel some disquiet they didn't really win their seats."

Dr. Haynes suggested the introduction of "Scrutineers", persons from both parties who would be able to ensure that persons from their home districts were included on the electoral roll when the final registration list was made out.

On the question of electoral officers, the suggestion was made that they should "listen to Rediffusion" and note the names of persons who had died or check the Registration Department for deaths, to ensure that dead persons were removed from the electoral list.

"We have to look at the whole question of registration and a proper electoral list with great seriousness," Dr. Haynes stated, noting that in many other countries the keeping of an up-to-date electoral list was an on-going process, such an exercise being the basis of democracy because "unless you have confidence in the electoral process, then sooner or later problems will develop in the society."

CSO: 3298/490

COLUMNIST SCORES U.S. POLICY ON, DESTABILIZATION OF GRENADA

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 22 Mar 83 p 4

[Article by Neville Linton]

[Text]

GRENADA this month celebrated the fourth anniversary of the takeover by the New Jewel Movement (NJM) and the establishment of a People's Revolutionary Government, but the general style of the event was in striking contrast to previous years.

In Grenada itself the celebrations, while enthusiastic, were on a smaller scale than in past years.

This was because several factors such as the passing of time and therefore the wearing away of the sense of novelty, the growing acceptance of the regime at home, the need to conserve financial resources in a time of increasing worldwide economic stringency, the busy schedule of officials at all levels in Grenada, the decentralisation of the celebrations so as to focus less on a big show in St. George's and, also, probably the fact that the opening of the airport next year will provide an occasion for a special celebration.

But whatever the domestic reasons, there is also the striking phenomenon that the regional Press and political leaders have not been as vocal as usual about Grenada, not only on this occasion of March 13 when there are usually ritual editorials of condemnation, but also over the last six months in general.

Given the intensity of the attention in the past, particularly

in the Trinidad Press, the relaxation is an interesting development.

It could be simply because of the passage of time. It is also possibly because of the aura of acceptance which the PRG regime gained by its attendance and competent performance at the last CARICOM Heads of Government meeting, where rather than being criticised they came out relatively unscathed.

It might also be because the pressures from the United States have also abated somewhat over the last year, with less attempts at destabilisation and therefore less news coverage — the regional media takes so many of its cues from the American media services.

In this respect the sudden appearance of Grenada in the news over the last three weeks was probably no accident. Suddenly there was a series of stories in the US press and these were, of course, echoed in the region. Top administration figures and Reagan himself were speaking about Grenada although nothing unusual had happened in that country.

This undoubtedly had to do with the approaching anniversary — Washington was seeking to stir the waters a bit, and to remind the hemisphere of its hostility and disapproval at a time when it expected there would be positive news of Grenada emanating from the celebrations.

This is, of course, one example of how destabilisation works.

The Bishop regime, after four years of the PRG, has much to be

satisfied about — apart from the well-known economic initiatives in industrialisation and the much-needed airport, there is a disciplined economy which has won praise from both the World Bank and the IMF for the sensible financial management, an agricultural sector growing in production and diversification, a people engaged in many novel experiments of education, of self-reliance and of relevant types of participatory organisation, a society which has settled down to its new regime and is as relaxed and gay as any West Indian island, a populace which learns about, discusses, and, on a regular basis, contributes to the machinery and politics of government through practices such as the annual nation-wide workshops on the national budget.

Grenada, like other non oil-producing 'Third World' countries, and like other primary agricultural exporters, is suffering greatly from the inability to gain developmental capital. United States pressure and regional hostility has meant that she has not had access to many of the sources in the West which are available to other Caribbean states.

The support from the socialist and some Arab states cannot make up for this loss. It is therefore all the more crucial that it be able to tap the global and hemispheric sources of funding — such as the World Bank and its associates and the IADB.

The current talks between Grenada and the former, and Grenada's recent proposal to the New Delhi Non-Aligned meeting for a monitoring body on the IMF are to be seen in this context.

Certainly other Commonwealth Caribbean States should support Grenada on these issues since global financial organisations, as a matter of principle, should be funding all member states and not be dominated by the Cold War interests of the United States.

Moreover, sometime early in the next four years, the Trinidad and Tobago government should,

in the more rational climate of the post-Williams period, decide to admit Grenada to its own Development Aid Fund.

Washington, always alert to its own interests even gives aid to Communist States e.g. Yugoslavia and Poland, and the USSR has also given aid to non-Communist states e.g. Egypt.

It would be short-sighted for us in the region not to give aid to a state on the basis of divisions which are by no means as serious as those of the ideological Cold War protagonists. Grenada has a regime more seriously dedicated to a true development path than most in the region, and thus deserves support.

Support, in Grenada certainly benefits the people and not a private economic sector, an elite or a government as is often the case in the Third World. Moreover, visible signs of regional cooperation help to provide a buffer, or at least a restraint, on American destabilisation attempts. It is in the interest of all CARICOM governments to limit United States intervention in this region.

A reversed escalation of tensions between the United States and Grenada is hardly desirable and it is to be hoped that the recent United States statements are not indicative of new initiatives.

There has been a welcome lull in the last year in the war of words and the United States had even made, for the first time, some needed diplomatic concessions toward the Grenada Embassy in Washington.

In its past, Grenada had also muted its earlier rather abrasive style, even if not diverting from its strong support for Cuban and East Bloc positions in international arenas. That the Grenada regime, is, above all, pro-Grenada, and has a typical Caribbean outlook to much of its activities, that it is a very small state with its own urgent priorities and is not about to become a security pawn for Cuba or Mexico, is the overriding reality which still needs to be appreciated by the Reagan regime.

OPPOSITION URGES FORMATION OF ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Mar 83 p 2

[Text]

The Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) yesterday renewed its calls to Government to set up an Electoral and Boundaries Commission.

Leading off the DLP's calls was that party's St. Michael West MP Branford Taitt who said it was a fundamental issue in the country.

Mr. Taitt outlined a number of reasons in support of his call, among them being that a general election could be called before 1986 given what he said was the disparity between cabinet ministers, he said also that there was a lot of confusion on polling day in the last elections and that there were some 2 000 persons who were unable to vote because their names were not on the electoral list.

The DLP official said a Commission would assist in correcting these problems, and warned there were a number of people who will not take kindly the possibility of not being able to vote again.

Mr. Taitt was supported by fellow opposition MP's Philip Greaves, Harold Blackman, and Maurice King.

Blackman said that free and fair elections were fun-

damental to the democratic system in Barbados.

He listed three things the BLP did when it came to power in 1976, the sacking of 14 of the 24 returning officers, an end to the publication of a monthly list of electors, and a registration programme and the change in constituency boundaries.

The result of these, Mr. Blackman contended, was total confusion in the elections with hundreds of persons not being able to vote.

He told the House his party was not going to sit in Parliament and do nothing about the Government's inaction in effecting the changes since according to him, between 1976-81 his party was told to keep an eye on certain procedures.

Mr. King in endorsing the call asked how was it that the matter having received assent was not proclaimed.

Another question directed at Government by Mr. King related to the circumstances which were keeping Government from establishing the commission.

"Until then the Government stands condemned", Mr. King added.

CSO: 3298/490

APPOINTMENTS TO SENATE, MINISTRY ANNOUNCED

New BLP Senator

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 13 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] WHEN the Barbados Senate sits on Wednesday, Clarence Jemmott will be taking the seat of former senator, Keith Rouse.

Jemmott has been appointed the new Barbados Labour Party senator following Rouse's retirement which was announced yesterday.

The 66-year-old job supervisor at the National Housing Corporation (NHC), said yesterday he considers his appointment "a

challenge and an achievement". He further said he enter the Senate bent on carrying out the party's policies, "whatever they are".

Former secretary, and now one of the first vice-presidents of the party, Jemmott has been in politics for over 40 years. He was beaten at nomination to contest the St. Micheal West seat by Elton Mottley in 1971, and after that, he never offered himself

as a candidate. Keith Rouse, has bade goodbye to active politics.

Government, in an official communique yesterday, announced Rouse's resignation from the Senate chamber, effective from today, and the 50-year-old dental technician said later, that he would now be concentrating on his trade and his job as chairman of the Sanitation Service Authority.

Howell in Finance Ministry

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 13 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] ANOTHER Parliamentary Secretary will join the office of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, from tomorrow.

He is defeated St. Michael-South elections candidate, St. Clair Ethelbert Howell, who lost to Erskine Sandiford in 1981.

The BLP senator brings to three the number of Parliamentary Secretaries in the Prime Minister's office, following Senator O'Brien Trotman, who is responsible for immigration matters, and Clyde Griffith, who is in charge of energy and planning.

The communique announcing Howell's appointment did not specify his responsibilities.

The 42-year-old senator, who said in 1981: "I would love to be thought of as Howell, a very good

lawyer and a very good politician. That is my ultimate ambition", spent 20 years in Britain, where he worked as a civil servant (Ministry of Defence) and became qualified as an electrical draftsman.

He was also a member of the British Labour Party, and a shop steward in the Electrical and Technicians Trade Union, and had the distinction of being tutored under the British Labour movement's stalwarts like Frank Chappel and Leslie Cannon, both brilliant working-class Englishmen and the brains of the Electrical Workers' Trade Union in that country.

It was the influences of Chappel and Cannon which shaped his entry into active politics.

Born at Goodland, St. Michael, on June 6, 1940, Howell holds the City and Guilds diploma in electrical installation and the National Certificate in Electrical Engineering from Battersea College.

He read law at the University of London, was called to the Bar at Inner Temple in 1977, and admitted to practice in Barbados the same year.

In addition to his legal practice, Howell has tutored at the Barbados Community College, and also served as legal adviser to the Child Care Board.

He was a member of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation since 1981, and is also a member of the Council of the Barbados Bar Association.

POLICE, DEFENSE FORCE ISSUES RAISED IN PARLIAMENT

Praise for Defense Force

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Mar 83 p 2

[Text]

The Barbados Defence Force yesterday came in for high praise from Government backbencher Roy Brathwaite for its role in assisting in arresting cane fires, aiding fisheries and bringing better attitudes to youth of the country.

In one of his few speeches made in the Lower Chamber since his election to the Chamber in 1981, the St. Lucy representative stoutly defended the force which he said was a must in a country such as Barbados.

Noting that the Opposition Democratic Labour Party were constantly criticising the spending of \$14 million on defence, Mr. Brathwaite said Barbados was no longer a small country since it now had a budget of some \$500 million.

He added that under the Democratic Labour Party there was no talk of overthrowing Barbados and that party did not have to contend with the Cubana air crash when Barbados was forced to ask Britain for a ship to measure the distance of the crash off the island.

Since 1976, he said, smuggling off Heywoods Beach had been arrested and residents of St. Lucy were now able to farm see eggs again because the Defence Force had prevented a number of people from dynamiting fish

in that area.

According to Mr. Brathwaite the previous regime had a policy of wasting money as he pointed to abandoned plans for a crematorium and fire trucks which were brought into Barbados and not put into service.

An impassioned address Mr. Brathwaite appealed to the Opposition to think more of the benefits that could accrue as a result of the force as he referred to youth whom he said were "rough to hand" but after three months in the Defence Force "they were now cultured."

With reference to criticisms over the employment of non Barbadians into the force, Mr. Brathwaite countered that the DLP "had a Minister from England and nobody talked about that."

The Government backbencher also contended that the Defence Force was indeed serving a purpose since it was preventing more youngsters from becoming Rastafarians and committing crimes.

The St. Lucy representative ended his contribution to tumultuous applause from the Government benches and clearly audible asides from government's front bench which said: "Some good country blows for the Opposition."

Nuclear Weapons Concern

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Mar 83 p 2

[Text]

The Barbados Peace Committee (BPC) has written Prime Minister Tom Adams requesting information on whether British and U.S. naval vessels and planes visiting the island carry nuclear weapons and if this is so to ban such vessels from entering the island's territorial waters.

In its message to Adams, who is also Minister of Defence and Security the BPC said that such a move would reduce the chances of Barbados being embroiled "in a military conflict and also spare the island risk of accidents involving nuclear weapons."

The nuclear-powered USS John F Kennedy, an American-carrier left Barbados yesterday while the British HMS Invincible is still docked at the Bridgetown Port.

The Peace Committee in its letter to Prime Minister Adams said: "...let the Barbadian people know if these British and U.S. naval vessels and planes are carrying nuclear weapons. If this is so, we urge you, in the name of life itself, to ban all such vessels entering Barbadian territorial waters."

Drop in Crime

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

There has been a tremendous drop in reported crime in Barbados during the last nine months.

This trend was revealed by Attorney General Mr. Louis Tull yesterday as he responded to Opposition comments about a level of crime "between 1977 and recently which terrified the entire country."

Mr. Tull, while not disclosing statistics, said that he did not believe there had been any other time in the country's history when such a large decrease in reported crime had occurred as from June last year to March this year.

He said that the decrease ranged over the entire area of offences. The Attorney General also informed the House of Assembly that the detection rate of all crime in Barbados was higher than anywhere in the United States or the United Kingdom.

Opposition MP Mr. Erskine Sandiford in an earlier contribution to the debate had said that he was pleased to hear about the wane in the crime wave as far as statistics were concerned.

He told the House that from 1977 until recently, there had been at least 54 cases of murder, 188 of rape, 49 of carnal knowledge, 85 per cent of indecent language, 377 of robberies, 190 burglaries, 2 540 housebreakings, and 22 422 other crimes.

He said that this meant that over the 1976 figures, housebreaking had increased by 122 per cent, robbery by 45 per cent and rape by 28 per cent.

Mr. Sandiford described these figures as very alarming, outstripping the rate of population growth, the growth in incomes and the Gross National Product.

Mr. Tull in response, however, said that the statistics which Mr. Sandiford had made known to the House were those up to 1980. He said that he had the latest statistics available and could make them available to the Opposition member.

Criticism of Opposition Stand

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Opposition MP Mr. Erskine Sandiford has said that the Royal Barbados Police Force should be maintained as the prime disciplined force in Barbados and that the Defence Force should be kept out of areas of policing unless invited by the Police.

He yesterday made a number of recommendations to Government for the improvement of the Police Force, many of which Attorney General Mr. Louis Tull contended were already implemented.

These included:

— that the quality and size of the Force be constantly under review so that conditions of service could be improved and numerical strength increased to cope with the functions the Force must carry out;

— that improved screening

and recruitment procedures be implemented to minimise the chances of wrong-doing in the Force;

— that the level of efficiency be upgraded by the revamping of the training programme for recruits new course content as well as courses for middle and upper ranks of the Force;

— counselling services for each member of the Force in order to improve career prospects and ensure promotion on the basis of merit and demonstrated ability;

— no discrimination against women, either in terms of recruitment access to training courses or advancement on the whole;

— an increase in the number of civilian employees so that policemen can be relieved of some of their duties;

— develop greater cohesion in the Force by opening up avenues for discussion and consultation among all ranks of the Force;

— full recognition be given to the Police Association so that it will be heard not only in matters relating to pay and conditions of service but also in welfare matters;

— disciplinary procedures within the Force should be improved to ensure public complaints and allegations of misconduct against members of the Force were speedily and easily investigated and the outcome made known to the complainant;

— that an impartial Review Board be set up to consider complaints about which dissatisfaction persists.

Police-Defense Demarcation

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Government Minister Mr. Lloyd Brathwaite has accused the Opposition of seeking to pit the members of the Police Force against members of the Defence Force.

He has warned the Opposition that it was not playing a good game but was playing with fire.

Mr. Brathwaite said in the House of Assembly yesterday that any attempt to pit the two forces against each other would not easily succeed since the members of both forces came from within the same society.

He said that the training of these men and women taught them to respect the

democratic system and to do all they could to defend this system.

He said that no other Government had done more for the Royal Barbados Police Force than the Barbados Labour Party... "and we have done it in a very short time and in a time of great difficulties."

He asked that the Police Force be given some breathing space after the difficult times it went through three years ago.

Said Mr. Brathwaite: "It is time to allow the dust to settle and allow the Force to operate with breathing space and give

it the encouragement it needs to bring itself back to the reputation which the country always had of it."

Attacks on the Police Force at this time, Mr. Brathwaite said, were not in the best interest of law and order.

He said that all Barbados should support the Police and Defence Forces in their efforts to ensure that Barbados remained safe.

He said that the public's response to Police appeals for assistance during the recent escape of three prisoners from Glendairy Prison was a positive indication that Barbadians were willing to co-operate with the Police.

Tull on Naval Exercises

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs Mr. Louis Tull assured Parliament on Thursday night that there were no British nor United States naval exercises in Barbados' territorial waters.

He said he wanted to make this fact absolutely clear since a number of Opposition members had conveyed the impression in their speeches that the current visit to Barbados by British and United States warships was for reasons other than those outlined by the captains of the respective vessels when they arrived.

Mr. Tull admitted that the British and United States warships were engaged in naval exercises in the Caribbean Sea but added that this was nothing new or sensational since this kind of activity by these two powerful Western countries has always been taking place in the Caribbean.

Mr. Tull reminded his fellow Parliamentarians that from when he was a small boy the American sailors were known to come to Barbados but that the Opposition was now viewing such visits by friendly countries as mysterious and unhealthy for Barbados.

He added there was nothing mysterious about such visits and queried the vociferous condemnation of the visits by the Opposition.

Mr. Tull observed that it was a known fact that the Russians were recently having similar naval exercises in the Caribbean but that the Opposition at no stage was heard criticising such Russian manoeuvres.

Mr. Tull also noted that it was known that enough arms had gone into Grenada during the past two months to supply the entire Caribbean with the possible exception of Cuba.

The Attorney-General said that it was a wicked and iniquitous policy for anyone to try and destroy the morale of the law and order forces in the society, and castigated the Opposition for what he termed its "foolish attacks on a disciplined force."

He then challenged the Opposition to get up and say they would disband the Barbados Defence Force if they were re-elected to power.

Opposition Parliamentarian Mr. Erskine Sandiford rose and accepted the challenge and started to quote from what he said was a 1976 elections manifesto in which it was stated among other things that the party did not believe there was a need for a Coast Guard and a Defence Force.

Having finished his quotation Mr. Sandiford then revealed to Parliament that the manifesto he had quoted from was that of the then Opposition Barbados Labour Party in 1976.

He added that from what was

written in the BLP's 1976 manifesto it was clear that that party had changed its stand as far as the Defence Force and the Coast Guard were concerned.

Mr. Tull countered that the situation in 1976 was far different from that of today and his party had to change its position to go along with the changing world conditions in respect of the increase in terrorism, insurrections and mercenarism.

He argued that this showed the maturity of his party in being big enough to reverse its stand on a matter when its original position was no longer practical.

Mr. Sandiford had also quoted from his (DLP) party's 1981 manifesto in which it spoke of the maintenance of a small Defence Force and the expansion of the Coast Guard service to show the Government benches that his party was never against the establishment of a Defence Force.

After Mr. Sandiford had finished quoting at length of his party's position in support of a Defence Force from the party's 1981 manifesto, Mr. Tull again rose and observed that it was hypocritical of the Opposition to get involved in Parliament and place the Defence Force under the severest strictures bearing in mind what the DLP had written in its 1981 manifesto.

CSO: 3298/491

POLICE PROBE ALLEGED BREACH OF OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Mar 83 p 2

[Text]

Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams yesterday told Parliament that police were investigating an alleged breach of the Official Secrets Act here.

He gave no other details, except to say that the police were compiling evidence for submission to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who would decide whether to prosecute.

Legal sources on the government benches said the case related to a recent airport incident in which official documents were photocopied.

Mr. Adams was reacting to a complaint by Opposition Member Warwick Franklyn about the difficulty experienced by MPs in obtaining information from Government ministries to enable the parliamentarians to carry out their duties.

The Prime Minister acknowledged that he too had at times experienced difficulty in getting statistical information from some government departments.

But he said the government stood by its doctrine that any MP was free to engage any public officer in conversation about his studies, which information may be published.

The Prime Minister however cautioned both public officers and parliamentarians that the official Secrets Act still restricted the information

which could be divulged.

He reminded public officers — he mentioned the central bank in particular — that great mischief, sometimes political sometimes financial, could be caused by supplying information to MPs.

Former Attorney-General and government backbencher Henry Forde described the official secrets act as an outdated piece of legislation. Mr. Forde, who served in the government between 1976 and 1981 said that a lot of the information which public officers and ministers of government "hold to their breast" was worthless.

Opposition Shadow Minister of Finance Richard Haynes cautioned public servants who may have listened to the Prime Minister not to go away with the impression that they may now be able to pass on information to MPs and then find themselves being fired.

"I know the extent to which people at the Central Bank have been harassed on the grounds that they gave me information," he declared, adding that there had been similar instances in the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Dr. Haynes said he knew of one Washington-based officer who had been harassed by the Prime Minister on the same grounds. But Mr. Adams rose immediately and denied this.

WORLD BANK STUDY INDICATES THREATENED INDUSTRIES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 4 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

A firm of international consultants has submitted that Barbados' competitive position in the garment industry is expected to erode because of the wage sensitivity of this industry.

It was stressed, however, that because the apparel industry employed about 5 000 Barbadians, the immediate objective should be "to hold on to the present position."

The consultants have just handed in their report on an overall strategy for industrial development in Barbados to the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

Among the terms of reference for the World Bank-

funded study were to:

— Examine and review the performance of the manufacturing sector during the last decade and to analyse its impact on the economy of Barbados;

— Carry out an examination of institutions directly and indirectly related to the manufacturing sector with a view to identifying constraints which might hamper the successful implementation of projects in the manufacturing sector; and

— Formulate an industrial plan which will form the basis of the promotional strategy by the Corporation.

The consultants found that

manufacturing provided the thrust for economic development during the past decade, out-performing the overall economy in terms of gross national product, output, employment and exports.

Electronics, the information services industry, the medical supplies industry and the apparel industry were identified as areas in which the IDC should intensify its promotional efforts.

It was pointed out that in spite of higher wages, there was less proficiency in the electronics industry than among East Asian competitors.

CSO: 3298/474

NEW FISCAL YEAR BUDGET SHOWS DEFICIT, CAPITAL SPENDING

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 9 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by Neville Martindale]

[Text] **THE Government's Capital Expenditure for the coming fiscal year is estimated to rise by \$11 684 501 over last year's revised figure.**

The Draft Estimates for 1983/84 were laid in the House of Assembly yesterday by House Leader, Mr. Lionel Craig, in the absence of Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Tom Adams.

They provide for an estimated Capital Expenditure of \$122 849 958, mainly for the financing of continuing projects.

This money will be spent on: General Public Services, \$18 896 428; Defence and Security, \$4 625 500; Education, \$13 600 000; Health, \$7 400 000; Social Security and Welfare, \$1 500 000; Housing and Community Amenities, \$9 275 000; Other Community and Social Services, \$2 462 877 and Economic Services, \$65 089 653.

Current expenditure is estimated at \$514 994 338 which represents a 2.7 percent increase over the approved Estimates for last year.

Of this year's Current Expenditure, Education takes the biggest slice — \$108 million.

Government's revenue for the coming fiscal year is estimated at \$508 620 232 — an increase of

1983/84	
PART I — CURRENT ESTIMATES	
Estimated expenditure \$514 994 338
Estimated revenue	
.....	508 620 232
Estimated excess of current expenditure	
over current revenue ..	6 374 106

PART II — CAPITAL ESTIMATES:

Estimates capital expenditure

122 849 958

4.8 percent over the projected figure for 1982/83.

This year, the Government hopes to pull in the largest part of its revenue — \$187 050 000 — from tax on income and profits. The second largest amount of revenue — \$130 500 450 — will come from taxes on goods and services.

Debate on the Estimates will begin in the House of Assembly on Monday at 10 a.m.

And yesterday, when moving the adjournment of the House, Craig said that he was looking forward to a very interesting debate.

He warned that he was tired hearing about the economy from the economists from the other side (Opposition).

The Leader of the House said that they would hear again on Monday all of what Dr. Richie Haynes had said from the time he was charged with the office of Shadow Minister of Finance.

Craig added that he had had these speeches well documented.

Opposition MP, Mr. Branford Taitt, proposed a suggestion to facilitate members to make their contributions more succinctly and cogently: that was that the presiding officer entertain members with sub-heads of the Estimates.

But this was refused "point blank" by Craig. Taitt withdrew the suggestion.

CSO: 3298/482

LABOUR PARTY URGED TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) is planning to strengthen its internal administration and is hoping for a greater community outreach.

This has been stated by the party's general secretary, Senator Clyde Griffith, while delivering the feature address at a special session for branch secretaries and treasurers held yesterday at its Roebuck Street headquarters.

Senator Griffith said the BLP in an effort to help keep Barbados one of the "freest democracies" and guard against "despotism and tyranny" wanted a fully informed and highly aware public.

The BLP general secretary, in calling for a careful, critical and frank examination of his party's existing political situation, said that experience had shown that many of the constituencies without elected representatives, suffer from lack of attention until election time. He felt that this was an unsatisfactory situation and it was necessary to step up activity in these constituencies.

Senator Griffith lamented the situation where only the better-known personalities in the party tended to be in the public's view while those young members with potential were being overlooked.

Added to this, there is the problem of some constituency branches identifying their candidates at the last minute, a situation which Senator Griffith said was "fraught with too many drawbacks."

"I consider the issue of outreach as the second of our major problems. We have been painfully admitting that we continue to have a public relations problem. It is an indisputable fact that the BLP administration in the period 1976-81 chalked up a significant record of positive achievements," Senator Griffith said.

He said that the party's supporters were unable to chronicle its contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of this country, in spite of its good record.

"In short, our efficiency and effectiveness in government, have not had the benefit of full and regular exposure to the public," Senator Griffith said.

In an effort to counteract this situation the party's paper, The Beacon is being refurbished and will have Dr. Waldo Waldron-Ramsay as editor and the constituency branches as "the means for our most intimate contact with the electorate" will be better educated about Government programmes and policies.

Senator Griffith told his party that "experience has shown that the Government's public image has needlessly suffered because of inadequate efforts to explain the benefits of legislation, which on the surface seems unnecessary.

"The controversy surrounding the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill is a case in point." He said if the bill had been published in full early, some of the opposition to it would have been avoided, and a rearguard action would not have had to be fought.

The recently appointed BLP general secretary said that the party will have to take steps to ensure it provides a full supportive role for Government, pointing out however, "this must not be seen as an effort to supplant the Government Information Service, or to suggest for one moment, that that important agency is not functioning as it ought to."

Senator Griffith said that the party must explain Government's activity in a manner that the entire country can appreciate; keep the public well informed of its policies and programmes and present the difficult and controversial pieces of legislation in such a way that everyone can understand.

CSO: 3298/482

LABOR TAKES FIRM STAND AGAINST GOVERNMENT POLICY

Walcott Charges

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Mr. Frank Walcott, the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) has charged that the authorities have been using questions such as per capita income and other statistical jargon as an opiate.

Addressing a meeting of the committees of management at Unity House yesterday morning, Mr. Walcott said that the union was worried over the poor distribution of income and the authorities were using statistical jargon as a dope to make believe that the economic situation could be solved by statistics.

The BWU general secretary told the workers that statistical matter did not relate to distribution of income or what is really taking place in the community. He said that the reality of the matter was that there are more who continue to grow poorer as fewer continue to grow richer.

Using Brazil as an example, Mr. Walcott said that country had the highest growth rate in Latin America about 10 years ago but only the people at the top "were growing."

Yesterday's meeting examined matters such as the

union's proposed headquarters at Harmony Hall, negotiations and industrial relations, the forthcoming May Day celebrations, the establishment of a sports club in the union, and related industrial relations matters.

Mr. Walcott told the workers that the negotiating of collective agreements has been very difficult as this was being done against the background of the international recession.

Mr. Walcott said that last year the Union had accepted the Government's wages proposal with a proviso of the workers being paid an additional Bds \$5 million. The Executive Council, he added, had agreed to inform the Government of this decision.

Mr. Walcott blamed some of the social problems in Barbados on hunger and said that some of the employers in the country had embarked on a programme to put pressure on the workers.

He cautioned the authorities here that they could not expect to live in this community with their heads held high and not expect to deal with some of the social problems.

Mr. Walcott told the

delegates that yesterday's meeting was, perhaps, the last of that kind to be held at Unity House as the union's Executive Council had already made a decision to consolidate its activities at the new headquarter at Harmony Hall.

The new headquarters is expected to be functioning before year-end and Mr. Walcott said that the Executive Council would pay an official visit to the new offices shortly.

"The workers are going to have a memorial and a good one," said Mr. Walcott.

He said that in the past, the feeling was that trade unions should operate only from poor buildings but those days were now past.

He said that the Executive Council had endeavoured to construct a building in the interest of the workers and he hoped that it would instil in the hearts of the workers what unity and solidarity meant.

According to Mr. Walcott, in the coming months the Executive Council and various committees, which are soon to be set up, will be meeting to plan for this important feature of the union.

Principles of Resistance

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU), Mr. Frank Walcott, said yesterday that the labour movement cannot be the pawns of government who use wage restraint and fiscal policies in order to restrict consumption and put workers at a disadvantage.

He said they must demand a balance between investment and consumption and must fight any regime that will allow high profits and low wages.

Mr. Walcott was outlining the principles which should guide the role trade unions play in national development at a regional seminar on "Trade Unions and National Development" at the BWU Labour College.

The seminar is sponsored by the Caribbean Congress of Labour and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation of Germany.

Mr. Michael Manley, Opposition Leader of Jamaica and a prominent Caribbean trade unionist, was principal speaker on the first day of the seminar.

The BWU head felt trade unions should be seen as a most important agency in ensuring a fairer distribution of economic and social benefits.

"They should be agencies of ensuring mobility, removing privileges and introducing an egalitarian system based on merit, equity and justice", he said.

Mr. Walcott felt there can be no effective social and economic development planning unless the rights of labour are expressed in concrete achievements involving wages, employment, working conditions, social security benefits, health, housing and education.

He said trade unions do not need paternalism from unsympathetic governments in getting such benefits for workers, but should be allowed to work along with governments to get these benefits.

Mr. Walcott said that in areas where the ruling political regime seeks to create elite sections of the community and to introduce repressive measures to deprive workers, the trade union must act as a means of welding the consciousness of the workers and creating solidarity and a bastion of defence for the workers.

He submitted that one of the trade unions' contributions to national development must be to ensure that accurate information on wages, profits, unemployment, and cost of living indices are maintained so that the workers can gauge their real development.

Mr. Walcott said also that the trade union movement must keep a constant check on influences of a regional and international nature which, inevitably, must impact on national development.

Nurses' Strike

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

The strike action instituted by the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) involving nurses at some of the island's hospitals is to continue today.

This follows good support for the union's strike call yesterday at the Psychiatric, Geriatric and four other district hospitals. Some 200 nurses turned up at the union's Dalkeith headquarters mid-morning after some of them had come out with placards at their work-places.

The nurses through their union are objecting to a Government decision to change their working hours which will require them working five nights a week. The union has insisted that such a change in the shift will result in the nurses working 52 hours a week.

However, Government which has gone ahead and instituted the new shift system, has stated that it will be the same 40-hour week and the move must be seen as an effort to standardise the shift system at all Government hospitals.

NUPW President Mr. Horatio Cooke who addressed the striking nurses yesterday said: "We believe that you have tried your best to see if you could get Government to change their minds, that having you to work 52 hours in one week rather than 48, has been to no avail, therefore this is what we consider to be the last resort, to take the kind of action which we have taken

today."

Some hospitals were affected quite seriously. At the Psychiatric only 22 of 67 nurses turned up for duty; the Geriatric Hospital only had seven out of 40; at St. Philip District hospital there were only six nurses at work.

NUPW's General Secretary Joe Goddard said that the union will concentrate its industrial action at the Psychiatric and St. Philip District Hospitals today.

The Government Establishments Division in response to the nurses' industrial action said it was not in keeping with good industrial relations practice, since it was only notified by letter three hours after the strike had started.

In its statement the Division said that one of the reasons for the new system was to "provide greater patient care" and stated that the new hours of work were not inflexible.

PPM Support

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 Mar 83 p 8

[Text]

The small and outspoken Peoples Pressure Movement has come out in support of the action taken by the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) and nurses in their dispute with Government.

The PPM which is led by Mr. Eric Sealy has stated that it would like all the other trade unions and the Opposition Democratic Labour Party to speak out on the matter and also lend their support to the NUPW and the nurses.

The nurses took strike action to object against new working hours and shift system which was introduced

by Government and to which they object.

Sealy said: "We call on all unions, the Opposition DLP and other opinion leaders in the community to support the workers in their struggle. We consider the new hours of work to be burdensome and intolerable, and particularly oppressive to the women involved.

"The inconvenience which the women must experience by these new work hours demands the support of all Barbadians and if necessary a total shutdown of the country and the withdrawal of all labour," he added.

CSO: 3298/490

TAITT: INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM ADDS NEW JOBS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 11 Mar 83 p 28

[Text]

THE moderate gathering at The Auditorium was shocked into hush last weekend when Opposition politician, Branford Taitt, said that the net total jobs added to the manufacturing sector between 1978 and 1981 was only 340.

The former trade minister dedicated his paper on the topic, in honour of businessman, Sam Ashby, who died last week, while a one-minute silence was observed in his memory.

Taitt then stated that the country embarked on an industrialisation campaign in the mid-60s and added that upon examination, the ten-year period between 1970 and 1980 confirmed that the manufacturing sector had achieved its major goals of economic growth and diversification.

He added that during the same period, the manufacturing sector had outdistanced the overall economy in gross domestic pro-

duct, output employment and exports, and quoted figures as evidence.

He stated: "However, there has been a clear decline in the performance of this sector during the last five years or so. The net total jobs added between 1978 and 1981 was 340.

"During the same period, gross domestic product for the manufacturing sector, when discounted for the inflation, was a mere 2.9 percent. Again, when we look at exports, excluding sugar and sugar products, we see that although the published plan for the period anticipated a 20 percent growth per year, published figures show that, when adjusted for inflation, growth was only 15 percent per year."

He charged that while the figures told a story which was apparent to persons engaged or keenly interested in the sector, Government had shown a decreased interest in this area of development.

Taitt then added: "Even more worrisome, if not dangerous, is that clear decline — and in some cases, fall — of the essentially indigenous manufacturing community. The demise or near demise of a number of small and medium-sized factories, once the pride and signal of indigenous success for the entire community, must be a source of considerable apprehension."

He called for the establishment of a unit within an agency to learn which industries had the best prospects for being of further value to the country, adding that investigation of that nature was important, whether actual projects were implemented eventually under private auspices or Government.

Taitt later suggested that Barbados should become interested in the fast growing medical supplies industry which recorded over \$11 billion in sales last year.

CSO: 3298/482

DLP LEADER TAITT REFLECTS ON ACP, AREA TRADE ISSUES

Call for Area Meeting

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

President of the Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Mr. Branford Taitt has suggested a meeting of Trade Ministers of Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica to resolve current trading problems Barbados is experiencing with those two states.

Mr. Taitt a former Trade Minister, made the suggestion at the Academy of Politics' symposium which continued yesterday at the George Street Auditorium.

Mr. Taitt said that a solution to the problems was more crucial to the survival of this country than a seat on the Security Council of the United Nations, which seat Barbados is now seeking.

"These problems cannot be solved by infrequent meetings between low-level officials who meet at regional gatherings. There must be eye-ball to eye-ball contact between the ministers in Trade in the respective territories, as well as their own advisers", Mr. Taitt said.

He suggested further, that Barbados should place a permanent or quasi-permanent Trade and Commercial Representative (High Commissioner) in Kingston and Georgetown.

"Its economic justification for such action could hardly fall behind that of Brussels", he added.

Two months ago Jamaica imposed a two-tiered exchange rate regime which Barbados and other regional countries said would among other things, make their exports to Jamaica more expensive.

Barbados has retaliated by imposing a floating exchange rate regime for the local currency vis-a-vis the Jamaica dollar, a measure which the Jamaican authorities have dubbed as discriminatory.

In the case of Guyana local exporters have consistently complained of not getting payment on time for goods shipped to that country.

Mr. Taitt said that the Guyana and Jamaica situations, which were major sources of difficulty since 1982 still remained critical in 1983.

He said exports to Guyana fell by 20.7 per cent from \$2.9 million to \$2.3 million, while exports to Jamaica fell by 23.2 per cent from \$22.8 million to \$17.5 million.

"Within CARICOM only exports to Antigua, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago showed any increase. And of these, only exports to Trinidad and Tobago increased significantly", he said.

Exports to the twin-island republic climbed from \$61.2 million in 1981 to \$89.2 million last year, an increase of \$28 million or 45.8 per cent.

New for Active ACP Role

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

Barbados has been told to take the lead within the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) bloc to press for a new International Sugar Agreement.

The call has come from the President of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP), Mr. Branford Taitt, who also suggested a high powered CARICOM-Martinique-Guadeloupe initiative to effect radical changes concerning rum exports to the European Economic Community (EEC).

Mr. Taitt addressed a symposium yesterday at the Auditorium, George Street, and in his wide-ranging address touched on the Lome Convention, the trade, aid and co-operation agreement between the ACP and EEC.

Mr. Taitt said that the old sugar agreement must be scrapped since "the EEC countries will not simply join it, although indications are that they can be persuaded to participate in an entirely new agreement."

He also dealt with some aspects of the agreement, notably the Stabilisation Scheme (Stabex) through which ACP states are granted funds for any shortfall in some exports to the EEC, caused by disasters.

According to Mr. Taitt: "The stabilisation scheme has

not been successful, partly because CARICOM countries have not developed their capacity to avail themselves of its terms."

He said there was a similar case with other ACP states, and suggested the re-examination of the scheme with a view to the scheme providing balance of payment (BOP) assistance where depressed international markets for one-crop economies inflict such BOP difficulties as Barbados had been experiencing.

On rum, he pointed out that it was imperative there be a radical change since the (European) definition of rum, under prompting from France and West Germany, excluded regional producers from the lucrative European market.

"I wish to suggest a high-powered CARICOM-Martinique-Guadeloupe initiative. The officials in these two West Indian territories need to be impressed that we can be of mutual benefit to each other," he declared.

He said that regional rum was unlikely to provide unfair competition for the rum from Martinique and Guadeloupe and the regional thrust must be to convince these two territories that there was sufficient untapped demand in the German market for dark rums as to warrant a co-operative marketing effort.

CSO: 3298/474

BRIEFS

PPM TOPICS--The recent appointment of a new Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and the re-appointment of Leroy Sisnett to a similar post in the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Civil Aviation comes up for discussion tomorrow night. The People's Pressure Movement (PPM), the small but vocal opposition party, will be holding a political mass meeting at Quakers Road, Carrington Village, St. Michael starting at 7.45 p.m. The main speaker will be the party's leader, Mr. Eric Sealy and Mr. Winston Parris. Sealy has said that he will be taking a special look at the appointment of a new Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Alwyn Howell, because this can only be seen as an extension of the political machinery. This he said was a broken promise on the ruling Barbados Labour Party's part, since it had criticised the Opposition Democratic Labour Party for having not many Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, but now had more than the DLP administration had had. The PPM leader said that he will also be dealing with the still talked about question of abortion, looking at the serious effect, Government's recently passed legislation can have on the ethnic majority of this country. [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Mar 83 p 2]

ADAMS BLAST AT PRESS--Prime Minister Tom Adams has accused the Press here of stirring up matters in the issue relating to Leroy Sisnett who was re-appointed a Parliamentary Secretary following his suspension at the beginning of the month. At the same time Mr. Adams has scoffed at suggestions that there were differences among members of his Cabinet. Mr. Adams said that a number of unkind and untrue statements were made in relation to the issue. He told the House it was only the state-owned Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) which sought to find out the details about the issue. A report on the reappointment of Mr. Sisnett and carried in this paper had quoted sources as saying that Mr. Sisnett was re-appointed because of pressure from some Cabinet Ministers. Mr. Adams denied this, stating that the Advocate-News had entered into the "realm of maliciousness." He said too that on this occasion he could accuse the Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) "of stirring up things." On the question of dissension, the Prime Minister said he knew of no dissension of any substance within his ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP). Mr. Adams stated that some ministers talked too much. [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Mar 83 p 2]

PRODUCE EXPORTS--EXPORTS of local agricultural produce are on the way up, and according to the general manager of the Agricultural Commodities Trading

Company, Antonee Ashby: "It looks very promising for local farmers." Ashby told THE NATION that ACTCO was now examining the possibility of refrigerated shipments of sweet peppers by sea to Holland via Britain. This, he said, would allow for greater volume to be shipped and would reduce the cost of freighting considerably. A trial shipment of 200 five-kilo boxes of sweet peppers is expected to be sent to Europe early next month, Ashby said. Generally prospects looked bright, he said, and efforts would be made to improve the packaging, presentation and to raise the quality to compete on the European market with countries like Israel and South Africa. [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 21 Mar 83 p 2]

SUGAR PRODUCTION--More than 14 000 tonnes of sugar have already been produced during the first month of harvesting of the 1983 sugar crop. However, it is believed that more sugar could have been produced had the problem-plagued Andrews sugar factory been in operation. This year sugar officials are anticipating a production target of 85 000 tonnes, some 3 000 less than what was produced in the 1982 crop. Of the sugar produced to date some 12 998 tonnes were delivered up to Sunday night at the Sugar Terminal at the Bridgetown Port. Some have also been bagged for local consumption. The crop which started on February 7 entered its fifth week yesterday, but minus Andrews which is yet to start grinding. Grinding was supposed to have started last week but reports indicated that had to be postponed until sometime this week. Yesterday employees at the factory were working around the clock to have it ready for a possible start this week. However, while work was going on no canes were being accepted by the factory, forcing some estates and small holders in the area to send their canes to other factories much further away. Meantime tonnes of canes were still piled up under the hoist. They were delivered this week. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Mar 83 p 1]

EXCISE DUTY SHORTFALL--Barbados has reported a more than \$20 million shortfall in revenue from customs and excise duties during the first nine months of the 1982-83 financial year. According to an official statement showing net customs and excise receipts up to December 31, 1982, laid in Parliament Tuesday government had collected \$110.9 million. This was \$21.3 million less than the cumulative receipts during the corresponding period of 1981-82 which totalled \$132.3 million. Net revenue for the month of December, also showed a decline--\$9.8 million in 1982-83 as compared with 14.3 million in the previous financial year. A reduction of \$21.1 million in import duties was almost entirely responsible for the shortfall in revenue. However, there was an increase in the collection of consumption tax of \$14.4 million which covered a \$12.7 million decline in revenue from the tax on motor spirit. Gaming machines brought in \$122.950 more in the period than the 1981-82 figure of \$1.05 million while there was a shortfall of \$35 800 on amusement machines, which had accounted for \$57 000 in 1981-83. Revenue from stamp duties during the period April to December totalled \$8.6 million. (CANA) [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Mar 83 p 1]

POLICE POSTING--Castries, St. Lucia Thursday (CANA-Reuter)--One of St. Lucia's top crimebusters, Deputy Commissioner of Police Collis Barrow has been seconded

to Barbados, where he has assumed duties as regional security assistant staff officer attached to the regional security service being established by St. Lucia, Barbados, Dominica, St. Vincent and Antigua-Barbuda. Mr. Barrow, who was born in Barbados, has been attached to the Royal St. Lucia Police Force since October 1951 when he enlisted as a constable. During the 32 years since then, he helped crack a number of major crimes here. His biggest was his identification of three young men who were responsible for the murder of an elderly British couple living just outside the city in 1971. Scotland Yard was called in to help with the investigations, but it was Barrow who turned in the evidence which led to the conviction of the three, who were later hanged. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Mar 83 p 1]

LAYOFFS IN BANKING--Yet another commercial bank in Barbados has been laying off some of its staff. This time it was the Royal Bank of Canada which has reportedly sent home an undisclosed number of staffers from some of its branches around the country. In addition one of the Bank's branches, that at Oistins, Christ Church, has been closed. A similar branch formerly located on Tudor Street closed some years ago. Sources close to the Bank said other staffers are to be laid off in changes which the Bank will be implementing this year. Among these are the closing of the Trust Company on Nile Street, a Printery on Fairchild Street, and an office in the Trident House headquarters. Just last week Citibank, one of two American banks, operating in Barbados, made 11 staffers redundant and a similar fate awaits two more when the bank closes its Holetown Branch next month. [Excerpts] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Mar 83 p 1]

PPM MEETING--The small People's Pressure Movement (PPM) will be continuing its island-wide political campaign with a mass political rally tomorrow night at the corner of Baxter's Road and Reed Street starting at 8 o'clock. The party's leader, Mr. Eric Sealy will be the main speaker and will deal with a number of current issues, including the reason behind the dismissal of Leroy Sisnett from his Parliamentary Secretary post; the visit of the USS Nashville, the role of the American military presence in the English-speaking Caribbean; the fear within the ruling BLP administration of an internal take-over; and the question of racial discrimination in this island. Mr. Sealy said the topic for the meeting will be: "Let the people decide." On Sunday night the PPM will take its platform to Speightstown near the public market. This will be the first in a series of meetings in that constituency by the PPM, whose leadership has stated it expects a by-election there before the year-end. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Mar 83 p 2]

CSO: 3298/4483

EXPORT REVENUE FALLS; IMPORT BILL ALSO DOWN IN '82

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Belize, Monday (CANA) — The Belize economy, hard hit by falling export revenue contracted last year, with growth totalling less than two per cent.

Central Bank Advisor S.R.K. Rai on secondment from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) however forecast some forward movement for the economy, with inputs from the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and international lending agencies such as the IMF.

The Belize Government's Statistical Office said exports last year fell to \$187 million (Bel\$1 equal 49 cents U.S) from \$238 million in 1981—a decline of \$51 million.

The drop in earnings from exports was due mainly to a sluggish sugar market. The export price of sugar, which is Belize's main export earner took a dive from \$982 per long ton in 1980 to \$943 in 1981 to \$629 last year.

The total value of sugar exports plummeted from a high of \$95 million in 1980 to \$85 million in 1981 and further down to \$62 million last year.

The other major domestic exports in 1982 included citrus concentrate, which fetched \$14 million, garments \$12.7 million, fish products—mainly lobsters (\$12.6 million), bananas (\$4.2 million), and timber (\$3.6 million).

About 75 per cent of total

imports in 1982 were retained for domestic consumption. This cost the economy \$73 million. The other big expenditure was on fuel (gasoline, diesel and other petroleum products) for which \$50 million were spent.

However, imports of nearly all items fell in 1982. Food was down from \$80 million in 1981 to \$73 million last year. But the fall in value of such imports as machinery, cement, metal products, clothing, furniture, wrist watches and other luxury consumer goods was much steeper.

The Central Planning Unit report notes that "this is not surprising since demand for food and fuel is not as elastic as that for other commodities."

Food accounted for about 30 per cent of the total import bill followed by fuel with 23 per cent. Other main items of import were: Machinery (15.5 per cent), cotton fabrics, cement and metal products (13.5 per cent), clothing, footwear, furniture and wrist watches (8 per cent) and chemicals (7 per cent).

Re-exports, most of which go to Mexico, declined sharply to \$67.8 million last year—a fall of \$20.7 million from 1981.

The reason for the decline was the triple devaluation of the Mexican peso. These re-exports were mainly electronic equipment, wrist watches and prepared foods such as powdered milk and

cheese.

Economists in the Central Planning Unit have said that looking at Belize's food bill—30 per cent of all imports—there is a clear need for positive policies "designed to increase food self-sufficiency." According to the Planning Unit the major economic reason being the need to decrease food imports and save foreign exchange to improve the balance of payments position.

The government last year moved to decrease food imports. In the words of Mr. D.J. Marlow of the Central Planning Unit: "In terms of social development, local food production can improve the nutrition and health of a local population and is an essential element of any 'basic need programme' for poor districts. It is also said to provide "appropriate" food compared to expensive package imports of high standards, designed for foreign tastes and markets."

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Ministers of Agriculture meeting in Belize in 1974 recognised at that time that their combined food bill amounted to more than \$1 billion, but since that time very little has been done to implement any meaningful regional farm project.

As late as last year, Belizean Mr. Raymond Fuller, managing director of the Caribbean Food Cor-

poration, in an interview with the Caribbean and West Indies Chronicle of December-January 1983 said the same thing: "With an annual food bill of over a billion dollars, the Caribbean's need to produce more of what it eats is becoming more urgent by the year."

"Several agricultural projects have been earmarked for finance from European Economic Community (EEC) resources, but is there really the will among member countries of CARICOM for regional farm programmes?

Since 1976 for instance, Belize was designated as one of the two countries (Guyana was the other) where regional agricultural development must take place rapidly to help the needs of the region.

Belize and Jamaica were supposed to establish a CARICOM grain farm in the Belize river valley area with the support of the European Development Fund (EDF). Several studies were made by the EDF and the Caribbean Development Fund.

The project was also supposed to receive assistance from the Caribbean Food Corporation. But after at least three studies it was not until June-July of last year that this project finally got started with the Governments of Belize and Jamaica and the CFC as shareholders in CARICOM Farms Ltd.

CSO: 3298/493

BUDGET DEBATE: PLP CHALLENGES U.S. CONTROL OF AIRPORT

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

Government was challenged yesterday to prove that American control of the the airport and base saved Bermuda \$20 million a year.

Mr. Ottiwell Simmons (PLP) claimed that Government had not "got the courage" to sit down with the US authorities and negotiate what the arrangement at the airport was worth to both sides. He claimed that Bermuda was being "done in".

But his remarks earned a rebuke from **Tourism Minister the Hon. C. V. (Jim) Woolridge** who labelled them irresponsible.

Mr. Woolridge said the use of the base for commercial aircraft after the war had revolutionised the Island from a farming community into a tourist resort with 600,000 visitors a year.

Mr. Simmons made his claims during the House of Assembly debate on civil aviation estimates for the coming year.

They were introduced by **Transport Minister the Hon. William McPhee**, who said during the course of his address that prospects for air traffic looked good with modest increases forecast.

The airport budget estimated expenditure of \$1,680,500 and a \$1,791,500 income.

Mr. McPhee said there had been several improvements at the airport during the past year, including the speeding up of immigration formalities for arriving passengers.

Other improvements include a new airconditioning plant and closed circuit TV covering the ramp.

"The prospects next year regarding air traffic are for a probable increase of modest proportions," Mr. McPhee said. "Tourism and the world economy will dictate our airport activity. However, the charter prospects are interesting and a new policy is being formulated in conjunction with the Tourism Department."

He pointed out, however, that increased charter business could not be allowed to cut into the number of scheduled, regular services.

Mr. McPhee said that more seats were being provided from the Philadelphia area, the centre of most of the package tour business.

He listed various services due to start, including Air Canada's summer programme of a daily flight from Toronto and a connecting weekly flight to Halifax during April and May.

Delta was reinstating its wide-bodied flight to and from Hartford and Pan Am intended to put a wide-bodied plane on its New York flight, the Minister said.

But he said British Airways' reduction of flights would be, as far as business traffic was concerned, a retrograde step, although the increased seats on the Jumbos would improve bulk tourism.

Mr. McPhee said Northeastern International Airways had filed for a service linking Islip in Long Island, New York, and Bermuda and also between Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Bermuda.

"These proposals are being evaluated by the departments of Tourism and Civil Aviation and the standing of the airline is being examined," Mr. McPhee said.

Steps had been taken to improve car parking for the public at the airport, he added.

Mr. McPhee also said that the United States Navy had nearly completed major renovation work on the main runway.

He also paid tribute to Base Commander Captain Stephen Loftus — who finishes his tour of duty this June — for his assistance in civil aviation problems.

Mr. Stanley Morton, Shadow Minister of Tourism, rose to ask if the airport had the facilities to cope with proposed increases in charter business.

Mr. Ottiwell Simmons (PLP), president of the Bermuda Industrial Union, said that there was concern

about the concessions at the airport. Two firms, BAS and ASB, had operated there for some time, but about 18 months ago Butler Aviation had started up.

"While we believe in free enterprise, and competition is supposed to be good for trade, it does not seem to be the case there," he said.

Mr. Simmons said that after earlier problems the workers had finally had a reasonably happy arrangement with BAS and ASB, but there had been problems with Butler.

There were also problems at the airport over parking vehicles. Car owners, taxi drivers, limousine services and buses all had to compete for space. Government should sort out the situation.

He challenged Government to produce evidence that Bermuda received the equivalent of \$20 million from the US authorities for the airport.

"But they have complete control of it," said Mr. Simmons.

"The US government and the Bermuda government must understand that the Americans are here at the invitation of the British government, and to a large extent at the expense of the Bermuda people.

"The Government has not even got the sense to realise they are carrying a burden with the presence of the Americans because this Government has not got the courage to sit down with the US government. Bermuda is being done in.

"I am suggesting we hold formal discussions. They (the US) would sit down as the British had to in Malta and the Americans had to in Greece."

The Hon C.V. (Jim) Woolridge, Minister of Tourism, described Mr. Simmons's remarks as irresponsible.

"We all know that after the last war the use of that base for commercial planes to land revolutionised this Island from a one-horse farming community to an all-year round tourist resort with 600,000 visitors a year," he said.

"We have not had a cruise boat since October, so without planes there would have been no visitors. He represents hotel workers and they should ask themselves what kind of leader they have."

Mr. Walter Roberts (PLP) said his party fully accepted that it suited Bermuda to have an airport, but it also suited the Americans to be here. The PLP were simply suggesting that the two sides should get together to negotiate a fair price for the arrangement.

"We have never said we want to kick the Americans out," he said.

The Hon. Quinton Edness, Minister of Works, Housing and Agriculture, said Government did review the arrangement every year.

"The people of Bermuda gain, according to our reviews, substantially more in benefits by having the Americans on the base and operating it than if we took it over and had to operate it," he said.

"If this were not so the Bermuda government would make representations through the British government to sit down and talk about it."

Mr. Lancelot Swan (UBP) said the Americans had contributed a great deal to Bermuda, not only to the

economy but also to education.

"Lots of Bermudians have gained degrees from the base," he said.

"We should thank them for being an integral part of the community that has made us one of the richest little islands in the world. We should not look upon the base as a burden to us."

Mrs. Ann Cartwright DeCouto (UBP) said she was disturbed to hear the PLP's violent attack on the Americans.

"Their attitude reminded me of the attitudes of those rapacious landlords of whom we have heard so much," she said.

Such landlords only thought of how much they could make from a tenant, and never considered the benefits received through having a good tenant.

"If it were not for the Americans, could we be assured we would have had our tourist industry?" she asked.

If Bermuda were attacked the Island would receive help quicker from the US than it could receive from Britain.

Mr. Walter Brangman (PLP) said the UBP consistently tried to suggest the PLP wanted the Americans kicked out of Bermuda, but that was far from the truth. The fact was that the Americans were here and would continue to be here, but their reason for being here was to protect themselves and not to help Bermuda.

"From time to time we should sit down with the United States and assess our situation and the risk we take through them being here," he said.

PLP CONTINUES CONDEMNATION OF UBP ELECTION PRACTICES

Voter Registration Failure

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 26 Feb 83 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt]

The Opposition Progressive Labour Party continued its running complaint about voter registration when it formally responded to the Throne Speech in the House of Assembly yesterday.

The party also accused Government of not being prepared to face the coming years, and cited hotel layoffs and redundancies and the folding of offshore companies as examples.

The PLP slammed Government for failing to resolve the BIU-HEB civil case before it went to court. The case had polarised attitudes in the community for years, it claimed.

Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans began her reply (full text Page 5) by saying her party prided itself on caring for the Island's social problems. But equally important were the issues of electoral and constitutional reform.

Government had said in the Throne Speech it was committed to "participatory democracy", but its actions belied its words.

"It will be the people of Bermuda who will in the not too distant future have to judge whether the Government's promises have been kept," she said.

Government had been derelict in its duty to carry out promises on voter registration made at the 1979 Constitutional Conference. It had been agreed that it would be Government's duty to ensure all eligible people were registered to vote.

But it had failed to send out reminder forms to those who had not returned the initial registration forms, and had failed to canvass all households to see that everybody was registered.

"This failure of Government makes a mockery of the very concept of com-

pulsory registration and has produced the shocking result of approximately 3,000 persons not registered," said Mrs. Browne Evans.

Bermudianisation of the vote also had to be accomplished before Independence. It was unacceptable that as many as 1,000 foreign residents continued to vote in Island elections.

She said the PLP wanted an immediate moratorium on granting of status, but was in favour of a "permanent resident" category when considering citizenship. She repeated the call for single-seat constituencies and lowering of the voting age to 18.

"These electoral reforms would ensure the foundation for democracy in Bermuda. Bermudians must accept this as the challenge for the Eighties and be content with nothing less," she said.

PLP Court Action

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 3 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party yesterday started a court battle to have the February 3 General Election declared "null and void".

The Party, already protesting to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office over electoral registration, is hoping that a Supreme Court action will result in a new election being held.

A civil petition was filed at noon yesterday by 26 unsuccessful PLP candidates and six "private citizens" representing constituencies in which the Party won seats.

It is against all 40 MPs in the House of Assembly, 14 of which ironically form the Opposition.

The Party has maintained that registration errors by the United Bermuda Party cost them the election and lawyer Mr. Julian Hall, unsuccessful candidate for St. George's South, will submit that the Parliamentary Registrar Mrs. Valerie Scott committed "divers breaches of her statutory duties".

He will further claim that the Parliamentary Election Act, 1978, was breached in St. George's North because

the polls were not open for the statutory period and that four valid ballot papers were rejected as spoiled in Hamilton West.

The unprecedented move was revealed at a Press conference featuring Mr. Hall, PLP Chairman Mr. Alex Scott, Senator Charles Bean, an unsuccessful candidate, and Mr. John Davis, representing the Party

stronghold of Sandys South.

Mr. Hall said the conference had not been called by the PLP, but "for reasons which will become obvious" the Party Chairman was present.

In a prepared statement Senator Bean, who ran in Smith's North, outlined eight reasons why the Party says the Parliamentary Registrar was to blame for 1,215 voters being disfranchised in the "purported General Election".

Senator Bean said Mrs. Scott failed to: prepare registers containing the names of all people entitled to vote; conduct sufficient inquiries on those entitled to vote; publish a notice accurately specifying the manner in which objections could be lodged; adequately advertise draft registers; disregard objections made after May 1, 1982; give people affected by objections suffi-

cient or any notice to reply; make adequate alterations to draft registers to correct clerical errors; make additions or deletions to registers before they were made final.

Senator Bean said the petition concluded that "the election was not conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Parliamentary Election Act and that such non-compliance affected and/or may reasonably be supposed to have affected the result in each and/or every constituency".

Mr. Hall said the action contested the entirety of the election and explained that the PLP could not as a matter of law contest the election results but they had to be challenged by a candidate or registered elector.

"The petition says nothing more than that a very large number of persons who were legally entitled to be registered were not registered," he said.

"It flows from that that the failure to register was as a result of non-compliance with the Parliamentary Election Act. This not only affected results throughout the Island, but also affected this election result."

Mr. Hall said he did not think the UBP could attack the approach being taken by the petitioners. It was an inquiry to determine to what extent democracy may have been subverted.

The lawyer said it was a misconception that it was incumbent on voters to make sure they were registered. It was the duty of the Registrar, he added.

Mr. Hall vowed that the petitioners would go all the way to the Privy Council in London to win the case. He expected an early date for the Supreme Court hearing.

POP Chairman Mr. Scott said it was not a frivolous action and also denied that it was sour grapes because his Party lost the election. The case was brought, he said, after long and serious consideration.

The Premier, he said, had not sought the mandate of the country but that of those registered to vote.

Mr. Scott further denied that his Party was not ready for the election and said it was the voter who was not prepared.

"You cannot win an election with a stacked pack and we are saying it looks as though there was a stacked pack," he said. "If folks cannot vote then there cannot be any true demonstration of the voice of the people."

Mr. Scott said the PLP had always protested against the registration system and it was decided not to take court action after the 1980 election--when the Party made gains--because it was hoped that changes would be made.

At the recent reopening of Parliament, PLP MPs took their oaths under protest. They did not refuse to sit at all in the knowledge that they would be bringing the court action, he said.

Mr. Arthur Hodgson, ousted with PLP colleague Mr. Calvin Smith in Hamilton West, said later that he could not understand why four ballot papers were rejected in the constituency.

Dr. Thomas Stowe, one of two returning officers at Hamilton West, said the ballots were "definitely spoiled for one reason or another". The contentious papers were open to scrutiny, but no objections were lodged, he added.

In St. George's North it is claimed that because the poll started 20 minutes late at 10.20 a.m. and closed at 7 p.m. a number of voters were prevented from voting.

Joining Mr. John Davis as the six non-candidates in the petition are Robert Wilson, Southampton Branch Chairman, Don Tuzo, member of PLP committees, Leonie Richards, Devonshire North Chairman, Audrey Armstrong, representing Pembroke East and Clarkson Tankard, representing Sandys North.

New Constituencies in Legal Battle

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 9 Mar 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party has intensified its fight to have the February 3 General Election declared null and void by drawing three constituencies into the legal battle in which it has already named the 40 elected MPs.

Warwick East, St. George's North and Hamilton West have now been named in separate court actions in the Supreme Court register.

Last night neither PLP spokesman Senator David Allen nor the party chair-

man Mr. Alex Scott could give specific reasons behind the new court actions. Mr. Scott said he assumed the original action filed last Wednesday was an umbrella petition which would be clarified by the three constituency cases. But he deferred further questions to

lawyer Mr. Julian Hall, who is off the Island on business.

Neither could Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans shed further light.

Last Wednesday, Mr. Hall said that the Parliamentary Election Act, 1978, was breached in St. George's North because polls were not open for the statutory period, and in Hamilton West — where UBP candidate Mr. Maxwell Burgess ousted PLP incumbent Mr. Arthur Hodgson by just five votes — four ballot papers had been declared spoiled.

But no specific allegations regarding the close Warwick East election — in which UBP candidate Mr. Irving Pearman ousted PLP incumbent Mr. Lloyd James

by just 15 votes — were revealed. Mrs. Browne-Evans, Mr. Allen and Mr. Scott said last night they did not know what, if any, specific allegations in that constituency might be.

According to the Supreme Court register, actions have been taken out by:

- Linda Harriett Steede in St. George's North against Registrar General Mrs. Valerie Scott, Mr. Fred Roberts, and UBP MPs Gladwin (Doc) Hall and Henry Hayward;

- Walter Byron in Warwick East against Mrs. Scott, Senator Stanley Gascoigne, Mr. Basil Asquith, Mr. Lawson Phillips, and newly-elected MP Mr. Irving Pearman;

- and Neville Somner in Hamilton West against Mrs. Scott, Ned Dill, Dr. Thomas Stowe, and newly-elected UBP MPs Mr. Maxwell Burgess and Dr. George Thomas.

Several of those named in the writs are believed to have been returning officers.

Last Wednesday the PLP's 26 unsuccessful candidates and six "private citizens" filed a civil petition against all 40 MPs — including 14 members of the Opposition Party. It was then alleged that Registrar General Mrs. Scott had failed to ensure that voter registration was carried out effectively.

CSO: 3298/476

DISSENSION STALKS PLP; MOVE AGAINST LEADER PERCEIVED

Comment on Thomas Resignation

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 8 Mar 83 p 2

[Text]

Progressive Labour Party spokesman Senator David Allen said yesterday he was not "unduly concerned" at the resignation of Mr. Austin Thomas from the Shadow Cabinet.

"Anyone has the right to disagree," Senator Allen said following news that Mr. Thomas had stepped down as Shadow Minister of Health and Social Services because he was not "happy" with the Party's leadership.

He is the second PLP MP to give up his place in the Shadow Cabinet in four months. Mr. Gilbert Darrell, current Parliamentary Whip, stepped down in November from Planning and the Environment after what was thought to be a serious disagreement with the PLP leadership.

"What I can reveal here is that Mrs. Lois Browne Evans was re-elected as PLP leader by an overwhelming

majority following the General Election and the ratio was in fact three-to-one in favour," Senator Allen said.

"It would be unrealistic to expect every single member to support the leader," he added.

Mr. Thomas, who held the Shadow Ministry of Health portfolio for several months — before that he was Shadow Tourism Minister — said on Sunday night that he would not feel comfortable working in the Shadow Cabinet under the present leadership.

Senator Allen said Mr. Thomas was entitled to his view. He said Mrs. Lois Browne Evans had made it clear before Parliament reopened that she would not be announcing changes in her Shadow Cabinet until after the Budget debate.

Mr. Thomas quit his Shadow post just over two weeks ago.

'Hatchet-Job' Charge

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] A dissident group within the Progressive Labour Party is attempting to "do a hatchet job" on Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans, an unsuccessful candidate in the last General Election has claimed.

Mrs. Doreen Lightbourn, who ran in Pembroke West, believes the group is trying to stage a coup and remove Mrs. Browne Evans as the party leader.

The assertion, in the latest issue of the Workers Voice, follows a decision by Mr. Austin Thomas to step down as Shadow Minister of Health because he was not happy with the leadership.

Mrs. Lightbourn also believes that the rift over Mrs. Browne Evans contributed to the party's defeat in the election.

"By an insidious campaign, started after the 1980 General Election, certain 'loyal' PLP members have sought to do a hatchet job on Lois Browne Evans," she writes.

"Yet, when one asks whom these concerned PLP members intend to put in her place one is met with a resounding silence. And that is the whole crux of the situation."

Still, Mrs. Lightbourn believes the present leader has the support of the majority of the PLP's grass roots members.

Party spokesman Senator David Allen said last night that Mrs. Browne Evans received about 75 percent of the votes for the leadership after the election. It would be unrealistic, he said, for her to get 100 percent.

He said there were obviously some members of the United Bermuda Party who would have preferred a different Premier to the Hon. John Swan. Senator Allen said Mr. Gilbert Darrell had been in contention for PLP leader but had since accepted the position of party whip.

CSO: 3298/476

UNIONS SCORE SOME SUCCESSES, REJECT WAGE HIKE OFFERS

Public Service Workers' Action

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 28 Feb 83 p 1

[Text]

The Bermuda Public Services Association yesterday angrily rejected the Minister of Finance's suggestion that civil servants should only expect a 2½ percent wage increase this year.

"Let's put it this way, if the cost of living is seven percent he cannot reasonably expect us to expect less than that," said BPSA president Mr. John Payne.

The Hon. David Gibbons said in his Budget Speech on Friday that at current inflation rates it would be "irresponsible" for civil servants to get more than 2½ percent.

But Mr. Payne replied that the BPSA was not concerned about the Minister's comments because they did not negotiate with him. "If we did we would cut the tail off him," he said.

The union chief accused Mr. Gibbons of using the same philosophy as Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan — "the rich must get richer and the poor must get poorer".

Mr. Payne said he would today discuss the Budget Speech and the Minister's comments with his General Secretary, Mr. Eugene Blakeney.

But he maintained: "We will negotiate in the best interests of our members. We made some real gains in 1982 when we negotiated a 12 percent increase and the RPI (retail price index) was running at

seven percent.

"I have been instructed by my management committee that we are not to lose any of these gains we achieved in 1982. We have been given a mandate."

Said Mr. Payne: "Mr. Gibbons can say what he likes. I am just perturbed that he doesn't see fit to state that The Royal Gazette had a bumper year in 1982 and the Banks of Butterfield and Bermuda had a reasonable year. Neither does he tell us what Gibbons Company made, but inflation is caused by the workers, according to him."

The BPSA president said Mr. Gibbons had produced an inflationary Budget in itself.

The white collar workers' union will start negotiations for a new contract around June. The present agreement expires on September 30.

"By September inflation might be running at 10-15 percent in which case we would not ask for seven percent," said Mr. Payne. "We are asking for some fringe benefits and basic pay will depend on the state of the economy when we go to the table."

He was not concerned that MPs and Senators were getting a ten percent wage increase while Mr. Gibbons was advocating 2½ percent for civil servants. "It is a relative thing," he said.

Blue Collar Wage Increase

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 10 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

Government blue collar workers were yesterday awarded a 16.07 percent wage increase to be spread over the next two years. The contract, affecting 874 unionised workers, is retroactive to the end of 1982.

The Bermuda Industrial Union and Government negotiating teams signed the contract yesterday at the Stonington Beach Hotel Technology Department of the Bermuda College.

"The arguments for each side were explored in a much better framework and much more quickly than the last negotiations," said Dr. Barbara Ball, chief negotiator for the BIU.

Her comments referred to the 1981 negotiations which broke down and resulted in an Island-wide strike that virtually closed down Bermuda's tourism industry.

Workers were then granted wage increases of 20.5 percent and 15.5 percent in

each year of the two-year contract.

This year the workers have won a 9.6 percent wage increase in the first year, to be followed by a 6.47 percent wage increase in the second year. The contract also calls for the wages of the lowest paid workers to be increased by a minimum of \$29.

Chief Government negotiator Dr. Idwal Hughes, Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, praised both sides for the "workmanlike" approach taken at the negotiations and the "good relationship" established by negotiators.

The contract covers eight divisions of workers within Government. They include employees from the Public Works Department; Marine and Ports Department; Bus and Allied workers; Education Department; Tennis Stadium; Postal Department; Health and Social Services; and the agricultural workers.

Industrial Union's Legal 'Victory'

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 Mar 83 p 2

[Text]

The Bermuda Industrial Union "won a great moral and legal victory" against hotel employers in the recent Supreme Court case, it is claimed.

The Hotel Employers of Bermuda failed to win an injunction banning sympathy strikes but were granted a declaration that widespread walk-outs in 1981 were illegal.

This was interpreted by the Workers Voice, the

union's newspaper, as a victory. "Union Wins Court Case. Chief Justice Refuses To Grant Injunction," state the headlines in the latest issue.

The newspaper also pointed out that Dr. Barbara Ball, MP, a BIU defendant in the case, was "completely exonerated". Dr. Ball was awarded costs.

After the judgment last Thursday Mr. Julian Hall, counsel for the union, ex-

pressed concern that the Chief Justice, the Hon. Sir James Astwood, "appeared to question the reliability and truthfulness of every single witness for the BIU and appeared to be saying that every witness for the HEB was truthful."

The hotel employers have said they would not comment on the judgment until after meeting to discuss the implications.

ANALYSIS OF HOW LOCAL INFLATIONARY SPIRAL FUNCTIONS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 22 Feb 83 p 13

[Text]

AS financial leaders warn of the danger of rising local costs on the future of the Island's two main industries and as one major reinsurer pulls out to do business in New York to cut costs, the Statistical Department has released a paper on the contribution of services to the rate of inflation over the past two years. . .

JUST how much is Bermuda's rate of inflation home grown, or can it all be blamed on the world outside?

And how important is the cost of services compared to goods in the local inflationary spiral?

These are some of the questions this detailed six-page study just released by Government's statistical department attempts to answer.

Main findings are:

- Almost half of all spending in Bermuda last year was on services;
- Spending was mostly on local rather than foreign services;
- Prices of services have increased at a much higher rate than prices of goods and the rise in the price of services has been greater than the general rate of inflation.

The paper demonstrates that in the year to November 1982 when the general rate of inflation rose by 7.2 percent, the price of services increased at more than twice the rate for all goods. Services rose by 10.3 percent with goods rising at 4.8 percent.

Similarly in the year to November 1981 when the general cost of living increased by 10 percent the cost of goods rose at a slower rate of 7.5 percent while services increased at a much higher rate of 13.4 percent.

Commenting on the study, Finance Minister the Hon. David Gibbons notes in an official release: ". . . the paper clearly demonstrated that price rises at the retail level could be increasingly attributable to local cost factors.

"Between November 1980 and November 1981 increases in the price of local services other than rent had been 15.1 percent and had contributed 30 percent of the total rise in the retail price index.

"In the year to November 1982 the price of local services had risen 12.4 percent and had contributed to over 35 percent of the total increase in the RPI."

"And he adds, "while the average increase in the price of consumer goods had risen 4.8 percent over the last year compared with 7.5 percent a year ago, an analysis of the export prices of goods from Bermuda's overseas suppliers indicated on average little, if any, increase in Bermuda's import prices over those prevailing a year ago."

"Thus much of the increase in the retail price of many goods sold locally is attributable to domestic inflation."

The study on *The role and contribution of services in the all-items retail price index* is prepared in great detail by the Statistical Department. Leading us, from initial definitions through four statistical tables and step by step analysis to the conclusions.

Its authors are careful to point out, "Bermuda is not unique with respect to the higher rate of price change in the service sector compared with the goods sector. For example in the year to September 1982, Canada recorded an all items change of 10.4 percent, with services up 12.5 percent compared to all goods up 8.9 percent."

"Similarly, in the USA, although the total all items change over this particular year was much lower at 5.0 percent, services advanced 7.1 percent, more than twice as fast as the 3.4 percent change recorded for all goods."

The study was carried out because the Statistical Department found that though "many substantial price increases were occurring in the various service components of the index, it was not immediately apparent how important services are within the total weighting pattern, nor how to make an assessment of the contribution of price changes in the service components compared with price changes of goods on movements in the all items index."

Starting with definitions, the authors defined goods as tangible and services as intangible or alternatively goods involve the purchaser in ownership of some new property, no matter how small or short lived, whereas expenditure on services merely enables the purchaser to maintain or restore the value of something he already owned.

Most items, they say, "can easily be classified either as a good or a service, with the most arguable case being where to put electricity".

But following Canadian practice, electricity has "been allocated to the goods sector".

The study was limited to two periods — November 1980 to November 1981 and November 1981 to November 1982.

The analysis begins with a division of each of the nine main groups of the retail price index of November 1982 into goods and services.

It comes to the conclusion that services accounted for almost one half (some 46 percent) of the total spending on goods and services with rent being the biggest single component at 17.6 percent.

This figure for Bermuda compares with 41 percent in the USA and 43 percent in Canada.

Further analysis found that "the vast majority of the service sector is in fact composed of local services of one kind or another". (Local services made up 39.4 percent of the 45.6 percent service contribution to the all-item retail price index)

Foreign services such as air fares, overseas hotel charges and college tuition, the authors point out, are not subject "to any significant degree of local influence".

Having isolated the service sector, the study then went on to look at price

"movements in the major components of the service group over the last two years. And as a final step it analysed the contribution of price changes of goods and services to movements in the index as a whole for the two years.

The service sector, it found, "accounted for the majority of total change in the all-items index in each year".

■ Beginning in March the Statistical Department will release regular quarterly information on the contribution of services to the retail price index.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

(percentage change)

	NOV 1981	NOV 1982
	NOV 1980	NOV 1981
ALL LOCAL SERVICES (private)	12.8	10.5
Rent	10.6	7.8
Household services	16.2	11.9
Transportation	8.9	14.2
Medical	20.1	14.5
Other	13.0	12.7
ALL LOCAL SERVICES (public)	16.1	6.3
Transportation	14.2	7.8
Household (postal)	25.0	nil
ALL LOCAL SERVICES	13.0	10.3
ALL FOREIGN SERVICES	15.9	10.4
Transportation	17.0	10.1
Other	11.1	12.0
ALL SERVICES LOCAL & FOREIGN	13.4	10.3
ALL GOODS	7.5	4.8
ALL ITEMS PRICE INDEX	10.0	7.2

CSO: 3298/477

FINANCE MINISTER ISSUES PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 4 Mar 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Government is to extend its moratorium on hotels, restrict cruise ship business and encourage international companies to invest in housing. These hard hitting proposals were revealed in a report on the local economy released yesterday by the Minister of Finance, the Hon. David Gibbons.

It is to be introduced in three with a maximum of two alongside in Hamilton. The House of Assembly to day and lays down guidelines for the Island's future development.

The report maintains that the recent drop in visitor numbers leaves scope for a renewed growth in tourism without the addition of new hotel beds. And the industry may have reached a tolerable maximum in the peak seasons of 1979 and 1980.

And cruise ships create congestion and crowding in Hamilton, produce "relatively little revenue" in comparison with regular visitors and should be spread more widely throughout the Island.

Though international business has stimulated prosperity and employment the report suggests that non-Bermudians working for international companies create a greater impact on the rental market than their actual numbers suggest.

Abandon the two-port concept from 1984. Any ship no longer prepared to remain in Hamilton.

Bermudians and non-Bermudians are competing for the limited number of rental units with the international company employee often having the advantage of a housing allowance combined with a short work contract which offered landlords a more attractive proposition.

Based on this detailed 51-page report, *Bermuda — An Economic Review*, Government is proposing to:

- Limit the rate of growth in the economy to not more than 3 percent a year.
- Extend the existing moratorium on the building of new hotels for a further five years, with the exception of Dockyard where a cottage colony will be encouraged as part of the development plan.

- Stop the allocation of beds or rooms to non-Bermudian owned properties though they may be allowed to acquire beds formerly allocated to other non-Bermudian owned properties.
- Limit the number of cruise ships visiting the Island in any one day to at St. George's would not be permitted a berth in Hamilton.
- Encourage international business with growth primarily through the expansion of existing firms.
- Diversify international business both within the insurance industry and perhaps in the computer software and telecommunications field.
- Encourage investment by international companies in residential development for staff and Bermudian accommodation.

The Review prepared by the Ministry of Finance and heralded in the Budget statement last week ex-

amines the rapid growth of the seventies which raised material standards but placed strain on the Island's limited resources.

This strong growth and pressure of demand led to rises in local costs particularly in hotel room rates, in rents, in real wages and heavy commercial construction led to fewer resources available for housing construction, the Report found.

It warns: "Neither tourism nor international company business are likely to grow as rapidly during the eighties as they did during the seventies."

And the report cautions: "Rising relative costs pose a threat to the competitiveness of both Bermuda's major export industries ...".

The study was prompted by the Rance Committee report on the future of international business and the fact that Government's present phasing policy on hotels expires in June this year.

CSO: 3298/477

SUBSCRIPTION TV PROMOTER WANTS DISPUTED OPERATIONS SITE

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 17 Mar 83 p 5

[Text]

Starvision President Mr. Arnold Francis QC, yesterday described the planned fruit orchard site for his pay-television company's headquarters as suitable to house an earth station, broadcast studio, 5,000. watt transmitter building and 250-foot tower.

Although Mr. Francis did not tell Hamilton Lions Club members that the site was partially on Wilderness Lane arable land, he said: "We have already identified a suitable site and are seeking planning permission for erection."

The lawyer, who said he had been chairman of the Planning Board for eight years, said Starvision had now applied formally to the Planning Department for permission. Two objections had been made, one by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and one by Cable and Wireless.

He said: "The next step is for the Development Applications Board to consider our application and make its decision."

The subscription TV service operation, he said, would require:

- An earth station and satellite dish equipped with six independent receiving amplifiers capable of receiving six channels simultaneously;
- A broadcast studio in close proximity to the earth station which would house earth station control equipment, a switching console, coding or scrambling equipment, video tape play-back and recording equipment;
- A 5,000 watt transmitter housed in a small transmitter hut linked to the broadcast tower by either cable or microwave;
- And a 250-foot broadcast antenna which would transmit signals to television sets throughout the Island.

Subscribers would need small decoding boxes to unscramble the system's signals.

Mr. Francis also outlined programmes his service would be offering. Already lined up were: sport, movie, news,

current affairs, religious and family programmes from the American services WTBS, CNN and CVN; drama, comedy, documentary and general programmes from the British broadcasters BBC and ITV; and news, sports, current affairs, cartoons and documentaries from the Canadian services CBC, Global and the Canadian Film Board.

Mr. Francis took the opportunity to criticise Cablevision plans to transmit programmes via underground cables.

The Bermuda Communications Corporation (BCC), parent company of Starvision, believed cable TV was unsuitable for Bermuda for four reasons.

He said: "Firstly, unlike metropolitan areas of the United States where they're dealing with high densities of population in already developed areas, Bermuda has mostly individual houses spread out in a comparatively disordered manner." The cost of linking those houses by cable would be "unacceptable", he said.

The older citizens of Bermuda likely to spend most time watching TV tended to live in parts of the Island which had been developed without the benefit of planning laws. "One would reasonably conclude there would be a horrendous problem in channelling cables to units in these areas," he said.

Starvision's third objection to cable TV was an environmental one. Mr. Francis said the company believed it wrong to dig up every road and side road to lay cables if an alternative method of transmission could be found.

Fourthly, he said, once cables were laid they would still have to be dug up from time to time for maintenance and repair.

He said: "In 1979 my colleagues took the first step to introduce this technology to Bermuda. This form of subscription television was fairly new in the United States, but the system is now in wider use and in many instances is being preferred to cable television."

CSO: 3298/477

ARGUMENT FOR FACING CENTRAL AMERICAN 'REALITY'

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 18 Mar 83 p 14-A

["Editorial viewpoint" Column by Ricardo Lizano: "Silence Pastora?"]

[Text] From various points of view, recent statements by Commander Eden Pastora have provoked protests from several sectors of the nation, who are alarmed by the content of these statements and the embarrassment they could cause for the country. Briefly, Pastora has announced that, on 15 April, one year after his public break with the leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), he will hold a press conference, from which point forward--to quote him exactly--"we will stop talking." Despite the fact that at no time has he spoken explicitly of "moving on to deeds," nevertheless, his remarks, imbued with the emotionalism characteristic of him, could lead to the supposition by some people that he was announcing the beginning of a military adventure in which Costa Rica would not like to see itself involved. Certainly, today more than ever the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other nations should be the maxim governing relations between our country and others, especially those in the rest of the isthmus. But neither should we forget that we are part of Central America and that the struggles--some just, others the result of meddling--that plague the peoples of the region have their impact here, and we must face up to this reality. There are offices and representatives of groups here that, while they may not be threatening to rise up in arms, are linked to organizations that actually are up in arms and customarily issue statements of a political nature. Apropos of this, it is unreasonable for certain sectors to demand silence of Pastora and not of others with whom they are in sympathy, as well as to invoke nonintervention when they call for intervention on behalf of their own interests. And those who do not believe in the commander's sincerity could at least give him the benefit of the doubt, since political struggles do not evolve or take definite form overnight. In any case, if there is anyone who has an interest in destroying the Pastora legend forever, it is surely the FSLN leaders, who see in it a vision capable of securing the adherence of vast groups of Nicaraguans opposed to themselves.

12336
CSO: 3248/627

BRIEFS

ANTI-SANDINISTS ARRESTED IN NORTH--Eight members of an anti-Sandinist commando have been captured in the last 2 days in the northern border region, near the Penas Blancas customs station. Reliable sources in the Ministry of Public Security said that FAL rifles, 30-caliber M 1 carbines, radio sets and military stores had been confiscated from them. Those arrested identified themselves as belonging to the movement headed by the dissident guerrilla commander Eden Pastora Gomez. Nevertheless, a spokesman for the Sandino Revolutionary Front group denied knowing anything about the incident. The arrests and confiscation of arms were part of the operations carried out in recent days by the Public Security Forces, which resulted in the discovery of four insurgent camps. According to a confidential ministry spokesman, those arrested are being held by order of the Immigration Department as undocumented Nicaraguans. He added that the camps had recently been abandoned and that locating them had been difficult owing to the refusal of local inhabitants to report on clandestine movements in the area. The police have ascertained that those who are engaged in insurrection against the regime of the nine commanders enjoy the secret support of many people. This fact complicates any investigation that may be carried out, the police spokesman said. However, he pointed out that, in accordance with the instructions of President Luis Alberto Monge, the authorities in the border region are acting in such a way as to ensure neutrality in foreign conflicts. In this connection, there is the decision to station at Puerto Viejo de Sarapiqui 140 members of the Guard's Condor unit, who were trained last year by Panamanian instructors. These same troops have taken on the task of pushing forward the construction of three barracks that will be used to house them in Puerto Viejo. From that place, they will spread out over the northern Atlantic coast in the area surrounding the mouths of the Sarapiqui, San Carlos and Colorado Rivers, where the local inhabitants have complained of arbitrary acts committed by Sandinist soldiers. [Text] [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Mar 83 p 8-A] 12336

DENIAL ON 'BLUE BERETS'--The "Blue Beret" group belonging to the Free Costa Rica Movement is neither paramilitary nor extremist, according to an explanatory note sent to this newspaper by Mr Bernal Urbina Pinto, president of the organization. The note, which was also signed by Willy Solis G., coordinator of the "Blue Berets," refers to a story published in our 8 March edition that originated with the Ministry of Public Security. At the ministry, it was learned that, as the result of complaints made to the Office of the President by inhabitants of Moravia, the minister, Licenciado Angel Edmundo Solano, had ordered an investigation into the arbitrary acts supposedly committed by a group

called "Blue Berets." According to the Free Costa Rica note, the aforesaid group is composed "principally of university students and as a legally constituted entity is protected by law." "It is not a 'paramilitary' or extremist group, as the journalist responsible for the story shamelessly affirms" Mr Urbina's note declares. Subsequently, it adds: "They are students who have received training in civil defense, in order to be placed under the orders of the appropriate authorities in case any kind of emergency arises." "This group," it further adds, "was created to help the communities and not to intimidate them." Finally, they hope that the untoward acts committed will be investigated to see who is responsible "and to clear the name of a group of young people who constitute an organization with very different objectives from those mentioned in the story." [Text] [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 11 Mar 83 p 12-A] 12336

CSO: 3248/627

BRIEFS

DELEGATION TOURS PDRY PROJECTS--Led by Ramon Castro Ruz, a Cuban delegation of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation is visiting the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], where it is touring various projects of live-stock-agricultural development and construction sites. Ramon Castro, director of the Valle de Picadura Livestock Breeding Farm, and others accompanying him were received by Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, alternate member of the Yemen Socialist Party Central Committee and agriculture minister. The delegation has visited an experimental agricultural project for the production of cattle feed, a dairy farm and a center for artificial insemination where Cuban specialists work. Our country will contribute to the construction of housing for peasants in Democratic Yemen. [Text] [FL012140 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2105 GMT 1 Apr 83]

PEREZ HERRERO RECEIVES DELEGATIONS--Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the Party Politburo, has received in Havana the delegations which attended the 10th meeting of directors of central institutes of educational sciences held at the Palace of Conventions since last Monday. The chiefs of delegation of the 16 countries which took part in the event signed a final protocol stating that multilateral cooperation had been strengthened and was being successfully implemented. Similarly, the delegation chiefs decided to hold the next meeting in Czechoslovakia in 1985 and thanked the Cuban side for providing excellent conditions for holding the event and for the magnificent organization of the work and preparation of materials. [Text] [FL021255 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Apr 83]

FMLN ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED IN HAVANA--Under the slogan: Free El Salvador and no to intervention, a ceremony marking the 13th anniversary of the founding of the Farabundo Marti Popular Forces has been held in Havana. The ceremony paid tribute to a number of brave combatants who fell in the struggle against the oligarchy and imperialists in that Central American country. Some of those so honored were (Antonio Carboza), leader of a Guapaza-area guerrilla column, Commander (Bernardo Torres), combatant (Felipe Pena) and Comanera Marinela Garcia Villas, president of the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, just recently murdered by the genocidal regime of that country. (Andres Martinez), member of the FMLN mission in Cuba, delivered the ceremony's closing remarks. [Excerpts] [FL021755 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 83]

CABRIZAS CRITICISM OF U.S.--At the fifth ministerial conference of the Group of 77 underway in Buenos Aires, Cuba denounced the blockade imposed against it by the United States, expressed its support for Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and accused Washington of practicing an interventionist policy in Central America. At the plenary session, Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrizas said the meeting is taking place at a time when the world is faced with the real possibility of a nuclear holocaust, and accused the United States of having set aside dialogue, detente and negotiations. The Cuban official pointed out that Washington had replaced those elements with a rapid arms buildup, with the intention of achieving military superiority and continuing its interventionist policy in Latin America, particularly in Central America. He also noted that the conflict over the Malvinas exposed the true nature of the inter-American reciprocal assistance treaty, the U.S. policy toward Latin America and the contempt of Washington for the interests of the nations in the area. [Text] [PA070353 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Apr 83]

CSO: 3248/655

MASS MOVEMENT LIBERATION'S ANALYSIS OF BISHOP REGIME

Kingston THE VINCENTIAN in English 4, 11 Mar 83

[Article "contributed by a representative of GNMMI": "Grenada National Mass Movement Liberation show, another side of the Grenada situation"]

[4 Mar 83 p 10]

[Text]

For almost four years now, Grenada National Mass Movement Liberation (GNMMI) have remained silent on the Grenada issue in order to, observe carefully and to remain impartial. But, before proceeding we must declare ourselves. We are, not communists, nor capitalists or socialists or, facists, nor do we adhere to colonial or neocolonial treds; we are liberals with a difference. To that we mean, there are advantages in all our systems. However, we say that we are liberals with a difference meaning that, we believe in justice for all human beings not in the hypocritical way as the socalled liberal countries on earth practice it. We understand that, people in any state will adhere to political and religious ideologies based on their human choice their rights and over and above all their God-given rights to anchor themselves into whatever facet of life they choose. We as men and women who have come together for a common cause - the liberation of

people. We clearly recognise our limitations, but we have not lost sight of our conviction..

The March 13th 1979 transaction that occurred in Grenada is very complex, in that it was the result of a very long chain of events that led up to what we call, some men rise to power by their specialities and fall from power by their vulgarities. It has now, become a traution in Grenada, that any political issue that has to be solved, must end in violence. However, the rise of Gairyism brought about the fall of plantocracy exploitation, and the dwindling of foreign control in Grenada, whereby many poor people or peasants had an opportunity to rise to certain social positions and be delivered from economic distress. But alongside those assets were many untold sufferings that were inflicted on some people concerning the claim of land by families. As the gospel goes, "All power corrupts but absolute power corrupts absolutely." Gairy, in the implementing of his political cult, had

the opportunity to have a sound political base, which remained undisturbed for a very long time. ... This he did not use for the good of the country all the time, for in the latter part of his reign just before he fell he used for his own ends.

This was quite obvious though. Gairy as a trade union leader, who had used all his energy, to bargain for better wages for poor workers and hadn't the slightest idea that he would someday gain political control within that short period of time. Moreover, the British had a strong hatred for him, maybe it was something personal or to some extent racial; had mysteriously granted franchise to Grenada, which made it quite easy for Gairy to sweep the 'poles'. Blaize who was a distinguished politician and the most educated man in politics of the day and who the British felt safe around, was grossly unpopular, until the British had got Gairy into squandamania, Blaize had a political chance that brought about a milestone in Grenada's political economy which elevated the commercial community. The downfall of Herbert Blaize was quite obvious in that Gairy was a great opposition worker who never rested. Blaize on the other hand, who had a very short period to prove himself with his big goals, was imperceptible to any soon coming defeat.

The political birth of Bishop came about in Grenada's history when

lots of unrest was prevalent in the form of the 'black power' issue, which was highly politically flavoured for intellectuals to seize power. And with that, he started his Crebo movement with an elite class, whilst the rural grass-roots in the persons of Teddy Victor and others (Teddy is now suffering for his political stand) had a Jewel Movement in the Parish of St. David's, the parish without a town. Their objective was to bring people to a common consciousness and so expose, Gairy's evils habitually. The Independence issue came about, when the nation was in great protest of independence for Grenada and at that point there came about the merging of all militant, people, patriots, business men, politicians to question the future of Grenada. However, at that time, Bishop and the other intellectuals stole not only the popularity of grassroot Jewel, but the movement and renamed it, New Jewel

Movement. What is worthy to note is that, when in the early seventies Bishop presented himself to be a member of Jewel he was refused by the group because they had mistrusted him, not only because he was bourgeois, but because his father

Rupert Bishop was a staunch, supporter of Gairy. In fact that was what prompted him to form his Crebo

movement.

Prior to independence 1974, Bishop had misused the unity of Crebo and Jewel for his own ends that is to overthrow Gairy. That was the first sign of his unconstitutional approach to national issues. Charges were laid against them, together with a little trashing from Innocent Belmar to behave themselves

for the restoration of peace in Grenada. People magnify the story and call Duffus Commission Enquiry to prove that their lawlessness was right, when in fact, they knew that they had incited people's school children to go to the hill, 'as they confess everyday.' to overthrow Gairy. In those days, when the talk of police brutality was in the air, it was only for national safety. However, what Duffus got he took and pointed lots of meaningful people unfit for public office. And that created a terrible image for Gairy's regime internationally.

But what is worthy to note further is that all the charges that Gairy laid against Bishop, he dropped them, along with those that were made against the mongoose gang in order to bring about national peace. So the charges that the mongoose got were undeserved. Even though the mongoose gang got two hundred years to share amongst six people. Bishop and his other criminals, had treason, arson, murder and many others that add up to fifty charges in number..

[11 Mar 83 p 10]

[Text]

Contributed by a Representative of GNMML

Gairy's system had a three pillar security, which had even helped in many instances to put peace when the country was potentially at war; Innocent Belmar,

Lucky Bernard, Iry Bishop, these men had both popularity and military discipline. Moreover, the position that they were in was of great importance to the country, and those were the men

who were standing in Bishop's way, hence they were strategically removed to bring the situation in Grenada. Belmar was shot, Lucky Bernard was unlucky he got poisoned and Iry Bishop was stolen away and killed.

Having seen the cause of the situation, we must look at the effects which are well known but not quite understood. Communists are at your door.

The morning of the revolution Grenadians heard a hopeful sound by the present prime Minister: "This revolution is for food, for work, there will be free and fair elections, the lands that were taken away by Gairy would be restored to their owners, there will be freedom of expression.

freedom of speech." Six months after this the only independent newspaper was closed down. Eleven months after, an independent candidate, Winston Whyte, and a hard working young man as Teddy Victor with some other people who had been committed to see that their country go good was accused of counter-revolutionary attempts. Just imagine that, seven months after his revolution he gave a speech entitled, 'Beat Back Destabilizers', he said:

"The first acts of our government had been to repeal and abolish Gairy's newspaper law, which had required newspaper to pay \$20,000.00 before having the right to publish." In 1981 a group of concerned citizens, lawyers, trade unionists,

business men etc. got together to form a newspaper entitled, 'Voice'. They were given all legal rights by the Bishop regime to form and carry out their publication. Then the P.M. deceitfully went on the media in conjunction with a rally and maliciously tore apart the character of those people and then detained some of them indefinitely without trial.

They then published people's law No. 18 of 1981 "Act 3," save as is permitted by this law no newspaper or other paper, pamphlet or publication containing any public news, intelligence or report of any occurrence or any remarks or observation there on or upon any political matter published for sale, distribution or other purpose, shall be produced, printed, published or distributed in Grenada during the period in which this law shall have effect" Penalties.

" Every person who, either by himself or with other persons, prints, publishes or distributes, or causes to be published or distributed or participated in any body corporate or unincorporated which produces prints, published or distributes any newspaper or other publication in contravention of this law shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three years or both such fine and imprisonment."

Over and above all, who gave Bishop and his followers the right to make 'People's Law'? Were the

people consulted at any time? No. They are so dishonest that people's law 20 and 21 deals with the election issue and no lawyer in the island has one as yet.

Why does Bishop think, that the Grenadian Rastafarians need rehabilitation? And even

if they do, look who is taking the authority to do so. Moreover still, look at the place that they are putting people's children in- places where they can see their families twice a month, they are not to eat the food that they are accustomed to, and they are forced to work and gross video indoctrination.

And finally the gross torturing of people to death. The Methodist minister was murdered for his sermon. Some detainees, as Buck Budhall under torture by Jostin

Roberts who pushed a mopstick up his anus and for eight days he was constipated. When at a point in time, he asked for water, an electric wire was placed in his throat instead of water, after being in blindfold for months with a hand cuff behind his back. The electric wire which had been placed in his throat resulted in a throat infection, which has not gone away.

Warning, 1984 the international airport is due to open. Don't forget The Torchlight, Sunday August 12th 1979 issue entitled: "War Zone In The Caribbean."

"Could there be sinister developments either taking place or about to take place on the south eastern coast of Grenada?"

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT LEASING OF FARMS--ST. GEORGES Grenada Tuesday (CANA)--The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Grenada was compulsorily leased seven privately owned farms in the country under a 1981 land development and utilisation law, according to agriculture Minister George Louison. He said that more private estates were expected to be compulsorily leased by the Grenada Government. They were not utilised by the owners. Mr. Louison did not name the farms leased but in recent weeks the government Gazette has identified some of these earmarked as the Grenville Vale estate, Woodford estate and the Belvidere estate. Under the law, the owners of idle or under-utilised land of 100 acres or more who have failed to prepare a plan for the development of the land within a time limit set by a government-appointed commission, would have their lands compulsorily leased by the government for 10 years to ensure that it is developed for agricultural purposes. The leftist Grenada Government which came to power here in a March 13, 1979 coup said that the land development and utilisation law is aimed at building a "modern" agricultural industry in the country. [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Mar 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/495

NICARAGUAN REPLY TERMED EVIDENCE OF 'IRRATIONALITY'

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Feb 83 p 7

[Editorial: "Unlimited Cynicism"]

[Text] The communist military government of Nicaragua is reaching extremes of political irrationality. It could easily be stated--without fear of exaggeration--that its leaders suffer from unlimited cynicism.

We had the most recent evidence of this fanatical attitude inconsistent with truth when we read the response of Mrs Nora Astorga, acting secretary of foreign affairs of the neighboring country, to the note recently sent by the Honduran minister of foreign affairs, Edgardo Paz Barnica.

In his note, the foreign minister of our country invited his counterpart, Miguel D'Escoto, to visit the border to carefully verify that there are no anti-Sandinist guerrilla camps in Honduras.

Since Mr D'Escoto was out of the country, Undersecretary Astorga answered explaining that, given that circumstance, he could not come "to inspect the places where the Somocist counterrevolutionary camps are located."

One must be truly irresponsible and coarse to handle such a difficult and delicate subject in the international relations of two countries so lightly and untruthfully. Whether they like it or not, these two countries share a common geographic area in Central America and will continue coexisting as long as Central America remains the isthmus that it is.

Facing the cynicism of the Nicaraguan military regime, the undersecretary of foreign affairs answered Mrs Astorga that the only camps in Honduras are those where thousands of refugees live. They flee Nicaragua to go to Honduras because the atmosphere of oppression in Nicaragua is intolerable to them.

"My government regrets the climate of domestic violence that prevails in Nicaragua. Among other things, it produces an increasingly stronger flow of Nicaraguan refugees to Honduras. If he had so wished, the foreign minister could have verified that the only camps in the border area are those that have been built precisely to shelter his many compatriots. They are under the supervision of ACNUR [UN High Commission for Refugees]," stated the note signed by the acting minister.

Once more the Marxist military dictatorship shows its true intention: talking about peace before the world news media and refusing to take concrete steps to procure a detente.

Fortunately, this atheistic Pharisaism is becoming better known internationally. Therefore, the romantic image of the tropical "Robin Hoods" is disappearing day by day and the sinister face of the Gulag begins to emerge in its place.

7717
CSO: 3248/617

TREATMENT OF POPE IN NICARAGUA CONDEMNED

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Mar 83 p 7

[Editorial: "Masks Off!"]

[Text] The communist military regime in Nicaragua, led by a small oligarchy of commissars in the service of Cuba and the Soviet Union, took off the mask of "revolutionary," "progressive," "social democratic" and "Christian" when it mounted a grotesque spectacle with its fanaticized and aggressive mobs during the Pope's visit to Managua.

To the astonishment of the international public that followed the Pope's trip via television, the new tyranny orchestrated an offensive, disrespectful and virulent demagogic campaign using shock groups and choruses of slogans. Their task (in which they were almost successful) was to cause enormous noise to keep the Pope's message from reaching the real people of Nicaragua.

From the beginning, His Holiness' visit to Managua was plagued with problems.

To start with, the regime tried to force the Pontiff to greet former priest Miguel D'Escoto, among others. D'Escoto has resoundingly refused to obey the mandate of the hierarchy to withdraw from the government and devote himself to his pastoral work.

D'Escoto prefers to continue acting as secretary of foreign affairs for the regime. Knowing that those who command are communists, he uses his position as a former administrator of sacraments to give the (false) image that the government has excellent relations with the Church and enjoys the support of the Catholics who are the immense majority of the country.

The Pope did not permit that. In the end, of the five pseudopriests who are part of the Marxist regime, the only one who approached John Paul II and knelt before him was poet Ernesto Cardenal, minister of culture of the government.

His Holiness, who does not hesitate to speak the truth, told him openly and without euphemisms: "You must take care of your situation with the Church." He repeated it to him seriously twice more.

Problems continued when the far-left military regime monopolized transportation to keep the real people from getting near His Holiness and to place only the courtiers of power there.

The Catholics traveled by foot, on bicycle and by similar means. In spite of the hostility of the soldiers and militiamen, they got very close to the Pontiff, giving him moral support.

The monotonous slogans shouted almost drowned out the voice of the holy visitor. He had to make a great effort to make his message transcend the communist boycott. It was very significant that, at the end of his visit, Peter's successor asked that "God free Nicaragua."

Possibly the commissars are very pleased with their actions. Probably they believe that they have minimized the effect of the Pope's visit on the Nicaraguan people.

However, the fruits remain to be seen. All those who still doubted that this regime was atheistic and Marxist-Leninist have opened their eyes.

Internally the Nicaraguans have realized very clearly that if they are not willing to fight, their country will lose not only the civil liberties which are already dying but the fundamental right to worship God freely.

That awareness will have very serious practical implications in the neighboring country. Nicaragua might soon live a second and true revolution.

7717
CSO: 3248/617

SECRET INTENTIONS OF NICARAGUAN LEADERS DENOUNCED

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Mar 83 pp 7, 46

[Editorial: "The Commanders' Shameful Conduct"]

[Text] "God save Nicaragua." His Holiness, Pope John Paul II got into the airplane to leave the country, an international prison he came to with the courage and disposition of a man of faith and a citizen who has lived under the clutches of a totalitarian system in his native Poland. The many voices of the paid mob during the Eucharistic celebration did not succeed in silencing the voice of the shepherd who lived a few hours of real Calvary with his sheep as a result of the most shameful oppression on the continent.

Education is the right of the family, not the materialistic and atheistic indoctrination that the Marxist government tries to impose on the youth. The Church is one and will follow the guidelines of the true shepherds, not the commissars at the service of international communism. This and the accusation that many Nicaraguans were prohibited, through coercive measures and pressure, from attending the religious acts presided over by His Holiness hurt the commanders of the formerly free Nicaragua.

Once more the intention of the totalitarian dictatorship became clear: they wear religiousness to deceive the people and surround themselves with certain priests to attract the masses. The intention is different though. It is not the people who interest them but the power to hand the country over to the most shameful and denigrating imperialism of the 20th century: the Soviet Union.

We will see what the magnanimous and pussilanimous members of the different American governments and the United States say now. There is no alternative: Nicaragua has fallen into the hands of international communism so shamelessly that it has already begun to intervene in the internal affairs of other countries.

In the land of Ruben Dario, through the demagoguery of the commanders, the Pope heard El Salvador mentioned as if Daniel Ortega were the spokesman taking over the defense of a people. John Paul II remained admired for his religiousness and his emotion in the religious acts.

The rotten apple of Central America wants to spread its stench to all the countries of the isthmus. It does not quaver in achieving its intentions.

While the Salvadoran president speaks of democracy, elections and religious celebrations, the commander repeats, like a school child, the already monotonous speeches against the possible enemy, denounced repeatedly as the invader.

The time could not be more unfavorable for the tyrannical regime of the Moscow commissars since the Central American people, today more than ever, are with the Vicar of Christ. Let them learn the lesson of El Salvador since those who are said to be redeemers today could become true oppressors tomorrow who would not respect the basic values of man. Guatemalan peasants do not hear siren songs. The tentacles of atheistic communism cannot touch, even by hypocrisy, the universal shepherd of the Catholic flock.

Those priests in our country who have let themselves be carried by the slogans of Marxism must not forget that the machine activated from Moscow will not stop at anything if it is not unmasked now. The Pontiff stated this clearly. "There is no possible alliance with communism, with its atheistic and oppressive principles against the dignity of man." Central America has given a "unanimous warm welcome" only clouded by the Marxist tyranny of Nicaragua, not its people who had to suffer mistreatment and even attacks from automatic weapons but were not intimidated from being near the Pontiff.

The question of all the Catholics of the isthmus is whether the Nicaraguan church will fall now, according to the Cuban-Soviet plans, into the sector of the "Silent Churches." Facing the organized repression we expect to hear the voice of the Universal Church since it is not necessary to give an inch to those who do not respect the minimal rights of the individual and the institutions.

What will the pseudopriests who closely collaborate with the Marxists in key posts to strengthen the regime say? Are they attacked now or are the Sandinist mobs, manipulated and coldly programmed, the aggressors for not respecting what was a religious rite for the majority of the Nicaraguan people?

After these shameful acts against the dignity of an entire people, there is nothing more left to say with John Paul II than "God save Nicaragua."

7717
CSO: 3248/617

RURAL POPULATION DESPONDENT OVER SLOW PACE OF DEVELOPMENT

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 27 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by Franklin McKnight]

[Text] I have over the last few weeks seen much of rural Jamaica and have become very distressed by much of what I have been seeing and hearing.

Increasingly in the country, people are disappointed with the pace of development or the lack of it and are expressing frustrations about their inability to improve their lot. There is a disturbingly great degree of nothingness and despondency.

I hope very strongly that the political leaders are aware of how much needs to be done in rural Jamaica, especially with the young. For time is running out. It is now nearly two and one half years since the JLP government came to power. One does not expect that there ought to be miracles especially in the present depressing world economic climate and given the government's tight spending policy. But it is hard to believe that even the more fanatical supporters of the government have not come to realise that the development of the rural areas and the improvements in the quality of life for rural people cannot be much longer delayed.

As things stand now, there are very few programmes around which young people can bring their energies and hopes to coalesce. There still are: too many people who have to carry water on their heads; too many children have to go, bare-footed, to school; too many young men sitting on culverts and on shop piazzas; too few areas of new sod being turned; too few new housing projects; too little by way of economic activity...

Sense of Frustration

From one parish council to the other there is a sense of frustration about the failure to do anything to the problems on the doorsteps of the councils. In the councils, as in the KSAC, there is the complaint about the scarcity of funds to attend to the most basic needs of the councils and the people they serve. The shortage of well-trained and motivated technical staff serves to limit what the little funds available can do to the few projects which the councils address.

The councils themselves are marked with acrimony and one keeps hearing allegations of corruption and ineptness that throw grave doubts on the councils' ability to help transform the areas they serve.

Attempts at Prostitution

I was in Negril recently and it was here that the problems faced by rural Jamaica got to me. This was not my first visit to Negril and I know what its image and reputation are. But I was still shocked by what I saw and heard there. I have never, in Jamaica, seen such open attempts at prostitution, such crude soliciting. Visitors to the area told me about petty thefts from their apartments, begging and the pushing of ganja. But those persons to whom I spoke, visitors and locals alike put much of it down to the economic conditions facing the people.

A Canadian who was here recuperating from an operation to his back told me of how women who were engaged in prostitution and whom he came to know as friends confessed to him that they were selling their bodies simply because they could not find work and had to live. Some of them have been repeatedly thrown in police lock-ups but go right back to soliciting. Other young people talk openly of their involvement in the ganja trade pointing out that it is better than prostituting themselves.

Hunt for Money

In the clubs, the discos, the bars, the shopping centre there is the hunt for money and material. A friend of mine had a beer stolen from his table while he casually conversed with others. As in other rural towns you do not fail to notice people buying one cigarette at a time, or grumbling at the prices in the supermarkets, or complaining about the unavailability of work. I admit feeling a sense of revulsion and deep shame when told by my some foreigners I met, of how turned off they were by the coarse nature of the soliciting in a big disco in Negril.

I am of little doubt that for the majority of people in rural Jamaica things have gotten worse since 1980. The parish councillors have completed two of the three years of their term and there are very few gains that they can count. It is full time now that the question of rural development be given some consideration by the government and appropriate programmes to bring activity to these areas be put in place. The patch work of a road programme here, the building of a clinic there and discussion in parish councils as to who will get the most of the grant for one of the few projects for which there are funds must give way to comprehensive programmes of productivity to change the mood of rural Jamaica.

CSO: 3298/496

BRIEFS

LUMBER PRICE INCREASE--The Jamaica Commodity Trading Company has announced increases in the prices of most types of lumber imported by the company, effective immediately. "This is in response to the placing of lumber on the parallel market rate of exchange as well as the rise in lumber prices in the United States, Jamaica's major source of supply," a news release said. "By itself, inflationary impact of the parallel market on imported lumber has been approximately 45% and this, along with prices from the USA which have risen by some 10% over the past few months, has made it necessary to institute increases ranging from 34%-49%" Mahogany and cedar used in manufacturing furniture for export will continue to be imported at the official rate and the price of these items will remain unchanged. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 27 Mar 83 pp 1, 2]

CSO: 3298/496

COCEI, PSUM PROTEST MARCHES IN OAXACA

Bishop Lona Faults Church

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Feb 83 p 5-A

[Article by Felipe Sanchez and Rafael E. Bermudez: "Members of COCEI Resume March on Oaxaca City"]

[Text] About a thousand workers, farmers and students affiliated with the 'Workers', 'Farmers' and 'Students' Coalition of the Isthmus (COCEI) have resumed their march on this state capital, while another group of Mixtec farm laborers led by PSUM (United Mexican Socialist Party) leaders have arrived here to demand the removal from office of the authorities in Tecache de Mina, a town in Huajuapan.

In Jalapa del Marques, at a meeting organized by the members of COCEI, the latter demanded specific replies to the demands they have been making of the state government for the last 8 years for ejido authorities democratically elected by the farmers, as well as for an end to repression and to harassment of the working-class municipal government of Juchitan.

Leopoldo de Gives, major of that city, denounced in the village of Jalapa del Marques the ambush that the state riot police had set up, at approximately 80 kilometers from this village, at a place called Portillo de Najapa, to stop the march.

De Gives held the state government responsible for the consequences of this act and reiterated his decision to lead the demonstration to the state capital; he pointed out that the authorities had categorically refused to engage in any dialogue.

Among the demonstrators are inhabitants of 20 villages in the Juchitan district, including Chicapa de Castro, Santa Maria Jadani, Colonia Alvaro Obregon, San Miguel Chimalapa, San Pedro Huilotepec and La Venta, as well as of the ejidos of Charis and Emiliano Zapata, whose farm laborer representatives constitute the advance guard of the march on the state capital.

The Mixtec farmers, who were warned at the approaches to the city not to hold marches or meetings, were received by the secretary general of the government, Jesus Martinez Alvarez, to whom they addressed their demands.

They demanded the removal from office of the representative of the attorney general's office in Huajuapan, Francisco Gonzalez Hernandez, and of the criminal court judge, Othon Sivaga, whom they accused of being "judicial mercenaries." In addition, they demanded an investigation into the murders of Samuel Jernandez Rojas and Guillermo Mendez Silva, both farmers killed in Tecache de Mina by hangers-on of that town's mayor, Arturo Cortes Balbuena.

The People Want Justice

Bishop of Tehuantepec Arturo Lona Reyes, after faulting the Church for favoring the rich and ignoring the poor in the country's present critical moment, declared that the people have the right to demand justice from those who govern them.

The prelate also denounced the existence of gangsterism in the region of the Isthmus, where hundreds of farmers, who are now marching on the state capital to seek redress of their agrarian and political problems, have been harassed, humiliated and exploited.

"I urge the Church to return to the spirit of the Gospels irreversibly and to stop favoring the rich," he concluded.

Finally, we have learned that hundreds of members of COCEI will pass the night in Jalapa del Marques with the intention of resuming their trip to this capital at 5 am; in Tequistlan, they will hold another meeting and will be joined by workers from the communal Onix plant and from the comissariat.

Guerrilla Identity Denied

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Feb 83 p 27-A

[Article by Rafael E. Bermudez]

[Excerpt] Jalapa del Marques, Oax, 15 Feb--"We are not guerrillas, nor we are operating secretly," declared PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] federal deputy and COCE [Workers', Farmers', and Students' Coalition of the Isthmus] leader Hector Sanchez as he left here this morning, leading about a thousand farmers to Oaxaca City in a protest march motivated by the failure of the state authorities to resolve the rural and agricultural problems of the Isthmian zone.

Passing through Tequisixtlan, they will hold a meeting to discuss with the local inhabitants the conflict in this region over the mining of marble, which has already claimed several lives.

The PSUM legislator added that "apart from the fact that we are within our constitutional rights, we have mobilized the farmers and workers as the only course of action that the state government has left open to us to resolve the problems that we face in the Isthmus."

He pointed out that the authorities persisted in applying a venegeful policy against the working-class municipal government of Juchitan, denying it any increase in assistance and continuing to refuse it BANOBRAS [Bank for Public Works] credits for urgent municipal needs, simply because, he said, it was the first important municipal government in the Isthmus to be taken away from PRI by the PSUM-COCEI opposition.

For this reason, added the lawmaker, Juchitan, Ixtepec and Tequisixtlán have had no agricultural credits for more than 6 years, since the state government insists that, in defiance of the popular will, these be in the hands of the bosses and landholders of the Isthmus, and, for more than 2 years, the Juchitan municipal government has been deprived of economic resources for public works.

Hector Sanchez said that the response of the governor, Pedro Vasquez Colmenares, had been only silence, subterfuge and now police repression, which threatened to result in bloodshed, since "the police command installed in Portillo de Nejapa, 80 kilometers from this town, is anti-guerrilla and against farmers, students and representatives of the working classes."

He added that the entire municipal government of Juchitan headed by the mayor, Leopoldo de Gyves, was leading the march, fully aware of these risks, and, together with COCEI, would press forward until it reached the Oaxacan capital.

12336
CSO: 3248/607

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

OAXACA INDIANS WARN COMPATRIOTS OF PSUM MANIPULATION

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Feb 93 p 6-D

[Article by Felipe Sanchez]

[Text] Oaxaca, Oax, 12 Feb--About 200 Indians from the Triqui region have come to this city to urge their compatriots who are ensconced in the sociology building of the Autonomous University of Oaxaca to return to their place of origin and not allow themselves to be manipulated by supporters of the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico].

Assembled in the auditorium of PRI headquarters, Triqui leaders Alfonso Hernandez Jesus and Antonio Martinez Ramirez pointed out that they had no wish to seek a confrontation with their brothers of race but were trying to make the latter see that they were being used for political purposes.

They said that, indeed, the federal government had ignored the Triquis, who lacked schools, roads and electricity, but that plans had already been laid to provide the necessary services.

The group of Triquis occupying the university building is being counseled by PSUM federal deputy Hector Sanchez Lopez, and its members are calling for new elections for municipal agent in San Juan Copala, removal from office of the present agent and withdrawal of troops and police from the region.

12336
CSO: 3248/607

FPR LEADERS CRITICIZE U.S. STAND ON VISA FOR BORGE

PA090022 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Apr 83

["Direct Line" phone-in program with leaders of the Patriotic Front of the Revolution: Orlando Quinonez, (Constantino Pereira) and (Lombardo Martinez) of the Independent Liberal Party; Mauricio Diaz of the People's Social Christian Party; Gustavo Tablada of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party; and Deputy Commander Rafael Solis of the FSLN and secretary of the Nicaraguan State Council; with unidentified moderator--live]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] I would like to tell the companeros of the Patriotic Front of the Revolution, FPR, that the country's political situation has an important effect in Latin America. This is worthy of attention. The FPR is an example of an alliance, an example not only to Central America but also to the rest of Latin America. While the people phone in, we would like to know the People's Social Christian Party's view on the current political situation.

[Diaz] On several occasions we have expressed our opinion on our current situation. We believe that many of these positions find an expression and take shape through mechanisms established within the alliance. These include the support for defensive positions. We believe that the promotion of laws essential to the institutionalization of the revolutionary process is a necessary and priority task. Laws such as the electoral and political party laws will definitely establish the framework for the operation of these organizations in the country. Despite the desire to achieve this, we believe that one of the U.S. administration's objectives is to prevent the consolidation of Nicaragua's process of institutionalization. This makes it very difficult to hold an electoral process in Nicaragua because the U.S. administration will do everything possible to prevent any such electoral process in which all the PFR political organizations participate. We believe that one of the tasks of all the FPR organizations is to make our members aware of the problems that the revolution is experiencing and to effectively join the defense tasks. At the same time, we should develop an internal debate in the FPR to continue to define the framework for the new democracy in Nicaragua.

[Question] My name is (Silvio Rodriguez Espinoza). I am calling from the (Riguero) neighborhood. I want to ask Deputy Commander Rafael Solis the following question: We have seen that while Maj Roberto D'Aubuisson, the proven

assassin of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, can visit and travel in the United States, commander of the revolution Tomas Borge has been refused a visa to enter the United States. What is your opinion?

[Solis] As Commander Borge and other compañeros have said, we believe that this is a clearly hostile action of the U.S. Government against the revolution. This is not a case of a country with which the United States does not have relations. This is not like the case of Allende's widow who was a compañera involved in the struggle against the Chilean Government. Instead, it is the case of a minister and a member of the National Directorate of the Nicaraguan Revolutionary Government with which the U.S. Government maintains diplomatic relations despite current tensions. Therefore, our position in this regard is one of condemnation and rejection of this action. We believe that this position is not only supported by our people, leadership and the FDR parties but also by sectors of the U.S. people, congress and the academic community that, as a result of this refusal to grant a visa, have increased their invitations to Commander Borge. There have been three more invitations from U.S. universities. We believe that the U.S. people along with these academic and congressional sectors will express their opposition to the Reagan administration's decision and will make it think about the levels of aggression that it is maintaining against our revolution.

[Quinonez] On behalf of the Independent Liberal Party I would like to deeply deplore the Reagan administration's refusal to grant a visa to Commander Tomas Borge. As Compañero [Silvio Ridriguez] said, the State Department didn't create any obstacle for the U.S. visit of Mr D'Aubuisson, the assassin of Monsignor Romero, while it prevented our interior minister from visiting the United States. This shows that the United States has returned to its gunboat and big stick diplomacy and that it has forgotten that history has progressed. I was reading in the newspapers today that Commander Borge has also received an invitation from Stanford University. It is no longer just Johns Hopkins and Boston Universities, practically the most famous universities in the United States, that have invited Commander Borge to speak. Nevertheless, the State Department refuses to grant him a visa. This kind of U.S. policy is what makes Latin America move away from Washington. We regret this because it shows that the so-called democracy is just a democracy to make money.

[Question] My name is (Eugenio Torres) from Granada. My question is addressed to Compañero Rafael Solis. We know that the United States is promoting attacks on Nicaragua and that our country urgently needs social tranquillity, peace and coexistence among all its citizens to carry out the country's revolution. Do you think that a dialogue for peace can be held while a campaign of charges and insults against the imperialist power is being promoted here at almost all levels?

[Solis] Well, this shows the existence of freedom to express one's views because the question by Mr (Eugenio Torres) shows his political position. We deny that a policy of insults against the United States is being maintained here. We think that our leaders have made serious statements throughout these years. We believe there has always been overwhelming proof to back up our leaders' statements. We believe that the facts prove our accusations. We have

never launched insults or slanders. We have always been serious. We believe that the revolution's anti-imperialist stand has its origins and reasons to exist due to the U.S. attitude towards Nicaragua. This is not something we made up. We have not made up the fact that they developed and maintained the Somozist dictatorship. The U.S. press has recently been reporting these clear facts. The United States is completely involved in the actions of the counter-revolution in northern Nicaragua and lately right in the city of Managua. The revolutionary leadership has been denouncing the U.S. policy. At no time can this be considered a campaign of insults and slander against the U.S. administration. They are the ones who through their actions and policies prove the truth of our leaders' statements. Despite these actions, we have repeatedly said that dialogue is essential and that every effort should be made with the U.S. and Honduran Governments to achieve peace, a just peace based on mutual respect and the principles of self-determination and sovereignty of the people.

CSO: 3248/656

BRIEFS

SERGIO RAMIREZ ON SOMOZISTS--Bogota, 5 Apr (AFP)--Sergio Ramirez, member of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said today, "We are prepared to face the Somozist enemies with 1 million men." In a statement made by telephone from Managua to Colombian radio station Cadena Nacional, Ramirez admitted that the situation between Nicaragua and Honduras has become explosive and tense. He said there is also "friction with Costa Rica." After admitting that the tension in Central America increases every day, the Sandinist leader said: "We accept the good-will mediation of governments, such as Colombia, Venezuela or Panama." "We wish," Ramirez explained, "everything to have a peaceful solution." Ramirez also expressed his deep concern over the U.S. presence in the zone. "The fuse and the powder keg are in U.S. Government hands. Whether it goes depends on the U.S. Government," he added. "In the meantime, we will make every effort for a negotiated solution in the specific case of Nicaragua," Ramirez said before referring to U.S. pressures "to close the doors of international credit to us." "We are trying to face up to this situation," Ramirez pointed out, "with the revolutionary transformation plan, to prevent being closed in and strangled." [Text] [PA061550 Paris AFP in Spanish 2350 GMT 5 Apr 83]

WHEELOCK ON U.S. PURCHASES--Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock, Nicaraguan minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, has said in Managua that his country is not afraid of either U.S. military adventures or its economic infamies. Speaking at a meeting of the Sandinist Workers Federation on Wednesday, Wheelock said that the Managua Government has not received any official message from the United States concerning a reduction of sugar purchases from Nicaragua. He added that although this would violate international rules, the United States could take such an action, as it did against Cuba in the 1960's. If the United States does not want to buy Nicaragua's product, which would constitute discriminatory treatment, we have enough markets and friends to buy it, Jaime Wheelock said emphatically. [Text] [PA080003 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Apr 83]

D'ESCOTO DENOUNCES HONDURAN INCURSIONS--Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (TELAM)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann charged today that regular troops of the Honduran army are making incursions into Nicaraguan territory. D'Escoto revealed this fact during a recess of the meeting of the chiefs of delegations of the Group of 77, which will close today in this capital. The official from Managua stated that they are not formal attacks, but the soldiers

penetrate our territory and advance 20 to 30 km and then withdraw. [Text] [PY092145 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1534 GMT 9 Apr 83]

FMLN COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSES GRATITUDE--The Salvadoran FMLN thanks the Nicaraguan people and their vanguard, the FSLN, for the immense solidarity they have demonstrated in this hour of sorrow following the treacherous murder of our compañera Melida Anaya Montes, Commander Ana Maria, buried a few moments ago in this capital. The FMLN communique reads as follows: From the FMLN to the people and government of Nicaragua: On behalf of the FMLN and of the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, FPL, we express our gratitude for the fraternal and revolutionary solidarity we have received from the people, their mass organizations, the FSLN and the Nicaraguan Government, in view of the treacherous murder of our dear compañera Melida Anaya Montes, Commander Ana Maria, member of the FMLN Unified Revolutionary Directorate and deputy commander of the FPL Central Command. The fact that Commander Ana Maria has been buried in Nicaragua shows how the heroes of the Salvadoran Revolution also live in the minds and hearts of all Nicaraguans. Thus, the massive homage at the Plaza of the Eduardo Contreras Community Center expressed and consolidated the unbreakable revolutionary alliance of the peoples of Sandino and Farabundo Marti, determined to struggle until we put an end to the interventionist escalation of U.S. imperialism against the Central American region. Compañera Ana Maria, toward victory always! United to fight until the final victory! Revolution or death, we will win! [Signed] Commander Marcel, member of FMLN Unified Revolutionary Directorate and leader of the Farabundo Marti FPL Central Command. [Text] [PA092022 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1848 GMT 9 Apr 83]

ANTI-SANDINISTS DESTROY CHILDREN'S CENTER--Managua, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--An anti-Sandinist group today destroyed a "rural children's service" (Sir) Center in the northern part of the country, killing two militiamen, it was reported here tonight. The Somozist group attacked the center with mortar fire. The center lodged 80 children at the "state production unit" (UPE) "LA Colonia," in Jinotega Department, on the Honduran border. Government reports said the family that cared for the children at the rural service center is missing. At the time of the attack which took place at dawn, the children were not at the center. [Text] [PA120455 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0420 GMT 12 Apr 83]

REGISTRATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS--The government junta has issued Decree No 1,229, which creates the registry of agricultural producers. The objective of the registry is to be a basic instrument for agricultural planning and development as a result of knowing the exact number of agricultural producers, their needs and geographical distribution. All individuals or legal entities involved in agricultural production must register. [Text] [PA080016 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 7 Apr 83]

CSO: 3248/656

BRIEFS

GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--On 5 April, Julio Alberto Merida Castellanos, the New Guatemalan ambassador to Peru, presented his credentials to President Fernando Belaunde Terry at the Golden Room of Government House. [Text] [PY121859 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Apr 83 p A 4]

OFFICIALS CONFIRMED IN POSTS--Senator Angel Castro Lavarello and Dr Alberto Tauro del Pino have been confirmed as presidents of the Peruvian-Korean Cultural and Friendship Association and of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea respectively. Castro Lavarello and Tauro del Pino were confirmed in their posts during a meeting held on 11 March by members of the two institutions and by intellectuals from and friends of the DPRK. [Text] [PY121859 Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 16 Mar 83 p 4]

REPUBLICAN GUARD DEDICATES SCHOOLS--Col Adolfo Cuba y Escobedo, director of the training center of the Republican Guard of Peru, reported during a ceremony marking the 19th anniversary of the training center, that the institution dedicated an intelligence school and a communications school this year. Cuba y Escobedo also reported that the training of noncommissioned personnel will begin soon. [Text] [PY121859 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Apr 83 p A 3]

SHIP RETIRED FROM SERVICE--The ship BAP Ponton Peru was retired from service after 22 years during a ceremony held at the Callao naval base on 14 March. The ship, which was built in the Alexander Stephen shipyard for the British Navy, was purchased by Peru in 1960 and commissioned in February 1960. [Text] [PY121859 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 15 Mar 83 p 1]

NEW WEEKLY MAGAZINE--A new 24-page weekly magazine called HERMANO LOBO will be launched on 17 March. Sociologist and journalist Esteban Ocampo, director of the magazine, stated that HERMANO LOBO will discuss basic national problems. Carlos Malpica, Jose Ignacio Lopez Soria and Nelson Manrique are among the magazine's most prominent journalists. [Text] [PY121859 Lima EL DIARIO DE MARCA in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 7]

JANUARY-MARCH INTERNATIONAL RESERVES--Authorized spokesmen for the Central Bank reported that the Central Bank's international reserves totaled \$928 million and the Central Bank's deposits abroad amounted to \$1,028,000,000 on 3 March 1983. [Text] [PY121859 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 7 Mar 83 p 29]

JANUARY-FEBRUARY EXPORTS, IMPORTS--The Central Bank reported in its latest weekly bulletin that exports amounted to \$299 million during January and to \$216 million during February. The Central Bank also reported that imports amounted to \$320 million during January-February 1983. [Text] [PY121859
Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 29]

CSO: 3348/313

OFFICIAL EXAMINES MAJOR PROBLEMS CONFRONTING ECONOMY

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 5 Mar 83 pp 5, 8

[Article by Sharon Williams]

[Text]

THE question of the relationship of government expenditures and revenues, wages and prices, consumption and investment, and imports and exports, were the four precise short-term problems affecting St. Lucia's economy examined by Director of Finance and Planning, Mr. Dwight Venner, at the opening of a Jaycees two-day seminar on "Our Economy in Tomorrow's World," held at the Castries Town Hall this week.

Examining each problem categorically and tracing the advent of world economy from the Stone Age to the oil crisis in the mid-70's Mr. Venner said that these problems should be addressed immediately, to ensure St. Lucia's survival into the 21st century.

As far as expenditures and revenues are concerned, Mr. Venner said that over the past four years the former had exceeded the latter in St. Lucia creating two immediate, very adverse effects.

Firstly we are unable to provide any money for our own development, ... and secondly to the extent that the public sector, the Government, is taking more money out of the system than it is putting in, which means that it is depriving the private sector of resources for investment to the extent that the private sector does not get investment finance. Then the question of economic goods is arrested and there is no increase in revenues," Mr. Venner explained.

Likening this situation to a vicious circle, he urged the Government to look to this problem to get its expenditures and revenues "back into balance."

The second component of this problem, he said, wages and prices, was nothing short of a dilemma, with 50% of recurrent expenditure made up of wages and salaries, "so that any small change, i.e. percentage change, in this particular magnitude will cause problems for bringing expenditure and revenue back into balance." To counteract this, he added, moderation in wage claims should be exercised which must be matched with moderation in price increases as the movement in price is always taken as an index for demands "Therefore we have to concentrate on both wages and prices," he said.

Mr. Venner added that the only way for St. Lucia to get a surplus to get the economy moving is to switch the emphasis between consumption and investment. "At present in St. Lucia most of our expenditure is on consumption, to the extent that one concentrates on consumption. This means that the economy does not have the level of investment to generate growth and the government gets less money."

This, he explained, created a situation where the country was unable to invest in public sector programmes and the private sector is unable to continue with its investment programmes; "therefore the whole system comes to a halt." he added that the problem of imports which far exceeded exports should also be given consideration.

Unemployment, "one of the biggest afflictions to our economy," Mr. Venner said, should not be allowed to continue if we are to avoid the social collapse of the country. The authorities should conceive activities to absorb unemployment particularly among the school leavers and other young persons who he said are not only active and virile but also socially conscious.

According to Mr. Venner, if St. Lucia is to survive into the next century its priorities must be identified. "We will have to make crucial decisions now or in the next five years about what kinds of things we will produce then and what skills we need."

Thus our educational and infrastructural systems should be geared to take this into consideration. "We will have to restructure all of these activities to ensure that they will be competitive in what will be a fiercely competitive world. We will also have to be flexible and very astute in picking these areas of activity which will allow us to give the population a standard of living which is consistent with our views of what is a just and right living in modern society."

To facilitate this, he said, the emphasis of education should be placed on science and technology to enable St. Lucia to accede to the computerized age which the world is fast moving into.

But to do this, Mr. Venner said, the managerial and administrative systems have to be reformed "radically" to be able to take the necessary steps. "The management of the private and public sectors has to be of the highest calibre ... and the public service is therefore to be taken out of political bacchanal, and encouraged to increase its efficiency and professionalism as well as its commitment to the development of the nation."

CSO: 3298/480

GOVERNMENT PREPARES LEGISLATION RESPONDING TO UNION NEEDS

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 5 Mar 83 p 3

[Text]

LABOUR Minister Clendon Mason has said that the Government is preparing legislation on four major subjects, as a result of representation by local trade unions.

The four: severance pay, recognition of trade unions, workmen's compensation by means of regulations under the National Insurance Act, and occupational health and safety.

Mr Mason made the announcement while addressing the opening of a workers' education seminar during the week.

He said trade unions owed it to their members to initiate dialogue with the government of the day with a view to having legislation enacted in the interest of the welfare of workers.

He also spoke about the place of politics in the trade union movement saying that when a particular workforce was unionised, the political affiliation of the members of that workforce was seldom, if ever, taken into account.

"Indeed, the same principle of freedom of association enshrined in St. Lucia's constitution which gives our workers the right to join a trade union of their choice, also gives the same workers the right to join or identify themselves with the political party of their choice."

And in order to ensure the survival of the trade union as a body promoting the welfare of all of its members, Mr Mason said, common sense alone seemed to dictate that a trade union should do well not to politicise its activities.

The Minister said trade unions might seek to have their views expressed on political platforms and also lobby in Parliament for a particular course of action to be pursued.

"But a trade union ought not to get itself embroiled in political action of its

own since this usually tends to split the union into rival factions, thus weakening the organisation and diverting it from its real business of promoting the overall welfare of its members and their respective families."

Mr Mason referred to rumour going around that some trade unions were allegedly seeking to abuse their strength in an effort to destabilise the country.

He added: "I think all genuine trade unions in St. Lucia are sufficiently well educated, nor would they be permitted by their membership, to attempt so naive an act of wanton suicide."

Mr. Mason also touched on economic matters. He said that with the world economy in recession, St. Lucian workers needed to be educated in the necessity for wage restraint if jobs were to be retained at their present level, and in the need for dialogue at the tripartite level if knowledge was to be pooled with a view to arriving at meaningful solutions.

CSO: 3298/480

COMPTON OK'S SAVINGS BONDS TO RAISE CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS

Castries THE VOICE in English 9 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

PRIME Minister John Compton's Government was yesterday given Parliamentary approval to raise \$10 million through the issue of National Government Savings Bonds.

According to a resolution adopted by the House of Assembly, the money raised will be used to pay retroactive salaries to public servants and for expenditure on capital projects.

Deputy Prime Minister George Mallet who introduced the measure in the absence of Prime Minister and Minister of Finance John Compton, told Parliament that the resolution followed the introduction and passage of a bill on National Savings Development Bonds by the House last August.

Mallet said it was necessary that the funds be raised as there was great need to improve St. Lucia's in-

frastructure to reactivate economic activity and increase the possibilities of growth.

Opposition Leader Neville Cenac suggested that if the Government claimed that more than 20,000 St. Lucians voted for its party in last general elections, then it should seek to raise the required amount from among them. He claimed that most UWP supporters were well-to-do persons.

But he was taken to task by Agriculture Minister Ira d'Auvergne who said that what was proposed was a National Savings Bond issue. He could not understand why Mr Cenac was suggesting that the issue should be a partisan matter.

CSO: 3298/480

EDITORIAL HAILS REVIVAL OF BANANA INDUSTRY, UK SUPPORT

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 19 Mar 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE latest news about St. Lucia's banana production is almost incredible, to say the least. The island has just shipped its biggest tonnage of fruit since 1974. The figure was more than 30 percent above the recent average.

But this was no miracle. It is the result of the serious hard work that has been put into the industry in recent months, and the Government, management of the Banana Growers Association, extension officers, farmers and banana workers deserve to be congratulated.

The massive tonnage has been achieved with much sweat, toil and sacrifice. It is a manifestation of the new confidence that is now being shown by all concerned in the future of the industry, notwithstanding the economic crisis of the times.

It also demonstrates what St. Lucians are capable of achieving; and if this high productivity can come from the banana industry, then it can come from other sectors as well and help put this country on the road to economic recovery.

But the situation in the banana industry, where growers are now enjoying far from encouraging monetary returns because of the falling value of sterling, must be a cause for concern.

Here again, there is action underway. Our sister banana producing Windward Islands will no doubt applaud the step taken by Mr. Compton in requesting a meeting between the Windwards and British Governments to discuss the future of the industry, especially mechanisms to ensure a higher return to the growers.

For more than two decades, successive British Governments have given invaluable financial and technical assistance the banana industry of the four islands. Not only that. Britain has kept its banana market open to the Windwards even in the face of pressure from its partners in the European Economic Community.

In fact, it can be said, that Britain has been as equal a partner in the growth of the Windward Islands banana business as any of the islands. Without this helping hand, the industry would have died a long time ago.

And this is why we have reason to believe that the new requests for assistance in ensuring the economic viability of the industry upon which so many thousands of people depend, will not fall on deaf ears. So banana growers in St. Lucia need not despair. We remain convinced that better days are coming.

But not only are banana exports on the increase. There has also been a drastic reduction, in less than a year, in the BGA's indebtedness which Mr. Compton gave as \$9.3 million shortly after his Government assumed power.

These are clear indicators that this important industry is set for a return.

BRIEFS

YOUTH GANGS--SPECIAL patrols have been instituted to deal with three teenaged gangs terrorising certain Port-of-Spain schools. Acting Police Commissioner Clive Sealy has developed patrols at schools such as Belmont and Tranquility Secondary Schools which are believed to be targets of the gangs which carry the names of "Panther," "Kiss" and "Scorpio." Shortly after 11 a.m. yesterday Police held three students from the Mucurapo Senior Comprehensive School for possession of weapons and possession of marijuana which they seized from a school bag. The youths held with the ratchet knives said they kept them as a form of protection in the event of an attack by the gangs, a spokesman for the school boys said yesterday. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Mar 83 p 13]

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ALTERNATIVES--MOST, if not all, of the projects under the Government-to-Government arrangements can be handled by local professionals and contractors. This was the consensus at last weekend's annual general meeting of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Professional Engineers (APE) according to the association's re-elected Public Relations Officer, Mr. Conrad Sabga. Mr. Sabga said: "Members felt that the strongest representation should be made so that Government is aware of this fact, and that Government be urged to give the project to nationals, particularly in the light of the present downturn in the economy." Mr. Sabga said the meeting was informed that a Bill entitled the Engineering Profession Act, intended to regulate the practice of engineering in Trinidad and Tobago was completed and would soon go to Cabinet. [Excerpts] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Mar 83 p 16]

COMMUNICATIONS UNION OBJECTION--THE COMMUNICATIONS Workers' Union has condemned the judgment handed down by the Industrial Court in which the dismissal of 190 employees of Holiday Inn was supported and the union was de-certified in respect of the Holiday Inn workers. Describing the judgment as a "ridiculous and politically motivated misjudgment" the union said that such a judgment had never been served on workers and a union together. According to the Union: "The purpose of the judgment was not merely to weaken our union financially, morally and numerically, but to warn and deter other unions and workers from standing up and defending members and the working people. It is further to discourage workers from joining unions so that employers may continue their plunder under the guise of 'recession.' The Court judgment reads: The action in pursuance of a lockout notice or strike notice is not contingent

upon the date of issue of the Certificate by the Minister, but the date on which the Minister is required to certify under S.59 that the dispute is unresolved." According to the union, this point is correct but the union's argument is that the Ministry of Labour never certified the matter as being unresolved until November 18, 1982. The union claims that this alleged error was disregarded by the Court along with such facts as the refusal by the company to sign two consecutive agreements on behalf of its weekly-paid workers, and illegal withholding of the workers' wages after the strike action was taken. According to the union, the judgment affected not simply 190 workers but the 500 or so other people who depend on these workers. The union has said that it will be meeting with other members of the Council of Progressive Trade Unions to work out "a course of self defence for the working people with particular reference to the Industrial Court." [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Mar 83 p 17]

CSO: 3298/499

AD, COPEI RELATIONSHIP WITH ARMED FORCES, COUP RUMORS VIEWED

Caracas RESUMEN in Spanish 13 Mar 83 pp 7-8

[Article by Oscar Alvarez Beria: "The Autocoup"]

[Excerpts] Among the parties of the establishment, which together are responsible for the state of prostration which Venezuela is experiencing in all areas covered by their influence, there is no such thing as complete agreement. There are also differences regarding the military policies which each of them subscribes to and the consequences of this are very essential to the country's institutional life. For example, after its lengthy and obligatory period of apprenticeship (1945-1963) for which the entire nation had to pay, the Democratic Action Party learned the lesson to conform by realizing that officers, placed by their regimes in positions of importance, above all were militants but at the same time were men of democratic sensitivity and vocation. In other words, this party demanded, not for itself, but for the system, the militancy and loyalty of the men of the Armed Forces who were called upon to assume top-level posts. On the other hand, the only thing the COPEI [Social Christian Party] was interested in, regarding the regular military personal to whom it would give its confidence, is the security that they had previously been thoroughly indoctrinated by the falangism that marks the soul of their leaders; this is the certainty that they have become blind and fanatical and sworn militants.

From the agreements and differences, such as those mentioned and eagerly exploited by COPEI, there perhaps recently sprang the widespread suspicion that the current regime is taking steps to prevent the election or to disregard its results if the election is held and if the outcome is unfavorable to it. I personally do not believe this. What is happening in government circles and no where else is that the administration is clearly aware that it has been doing a very bad job, that it has irremediably lost the confidence of all Venezuela, and that its inability to run a good administration has been demonstrated even among those circles that are still taken by the rather comical idea that they could still do something even if they were defeated in some manner not covered by constitutional doctrine.

My refusal to believe in the autocoup has no foundation in the nonexistent institutional scruples of the COPEI, nor in the loyalty of the institutions which can be preserved for it by the political commissars whom the administration has

in the Armed Forces. My thinking has philosophical and pragmatic foundations of well-known strengths: From the times of the last dictatorship, the military classrooms have been open to the teaching of the ideas on which is based the political system that Venezuela chose on 23 January 1958 and it has been discussed with absolute liberty and it has been accepted as the best; the cadres of the Armed Forces, profoundly regretting the long time lost by the country, nevertheless preserve the very demanding line of loyalty to their essential duties, in spite of the lack of real leadership and the authority gained by the political commissars; there is accentuated and widespread discontent among the cadres and ranks of the Armed Forces which would make any attempt at an autocoup ineffective. This discontent was produced by factors such as the downgrading of the high command echelons, the coverup and sponsorship of corruption, political patronage, the shift in loyalties, professional job insecurity, the tangible lack of leadership throughout the land, and many others.

In the past, it was pointed out that the President supposedly had decided to leave generals Narvaez Churion and Machado Santana in their jobs until January 1984, as a major step in the presumably planned autocoup. This is not credible either because there is not the slightest intelligence behind that idea since carrying it out would turn it into a gratuitous and unnecessary insult to the high commanders who would be forced to postpone their aspirations. This would also be offensive to the Armed Forces who have the right to think that they are unworthy of the confidence of their commander-in-chief. (I must make it clear here that I am totally in favor of the idea of having the defense ministry run by a citizen of this country, by a civilian, or by a man in uniform with recognized greatness.) In this connection, one could not argue either--in an effort to support the presumed decision to leave those generals in their jobs--by maintaining that this is an election year, combined with the "experience" of Narvaez and Santana. That would deny the existence of real general officers in the Armed Forces.

In June 1982 I learned of an unsuccessful requirement which the former minister had presented to some of his friends in the media: Spread the rumor to the effect that extending his term of service would be good for the country and was desired by the president. This same explanation could be used today or, perhaps, the rumor is based on a strong desire on the part of Narvaez and Machado to finish their respective tasks at the same moment that the fiscal year ends.

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CALDERA, LUSINCHI DISCUSS COUP RUMORS, OTHER ISSUES

Lusinchi Calls for Investigation

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 Mar 83 p D-1

[Article by Leopoldo Linares: "Lusinchi Urges Administration to Tell Origin of Nasty Tales"]

[Text] The AD [Democratic Action Party] candidate denied that the rumors are being echoed among the Armed Forces because the latter are institutionalized and there is no room for adventure.

In a forceful statement, the AD presidential candidate Jaime Lusinchi challenged the government to specify the origin and objectives of the wave of rumors that was unleashed several weeks ago.

Lusinchi said that "Lack of confidence, insecurity, and confusion, which are generated by the administration's inaction and contradictions, create psychological mechanisms to the point where the fishermen out in the middle of the stream think they can hear rumors." He admitted that there had been rumors of a civilian nature but there were others that definitely came from military circles. He immediately denied that these rumors are being echoed or accepted at face value in the Armed Forces because the latter are solidly institutionalized, well equipped, and enjoy national prestige.

"I firmly believe," Lusinchi added, "that there is no fertile ground for adventures in our military establishment."

Jaime Lusinchi was working at his campaign headquarters, "La Ermita" House in La Florida. He stopped his work to talk to the newsmen and to discuss the wave of rumors that has engulfed the majority of the population.

"What do you think of that wave of rumors that exists throughout the land and that has produced an express declaration by Minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency Gonzalo Garcia Bustillos?"

"This phenomenon does exist and must be analyzed and investigated in its entire context, not only to understand it, but also to stop the intention that is

behind it. There is no doubt that the environment is propitious for all kinds of rumors. Distrust, insecurity, and confusion, generated by the administration's inaction and contradictions, create the psychological mechanisms to the point where even the fishermen out in the middle of the stream think they can hear rumors floating in and they put the people on tenterhooks through the old and crafty 'grapevine.' You remember that during the days prior to the exchange measures, rumors came and went regarding the free convertibility of the bolivar and devaluation. Many of those rumors certainly had to come from somebody who wanted to transact certain deals with money but others, quite enough of them, came from administration sources themselves in support of unwise statements or from leaks about the contradictions at the very top of the economic office. Later on, rumors and gossip against private banks were a part of a scheming operation--and this is an open secret--that originated in the corridors of the Central Bank itself. They were part of the battle between the top leadership of the bank of issue and some private banks."

"And what can you tell us about the new rumors?"

"Now the rumors are of a different kind. They deal with the autocoup, they deal with the coup from below, they deal with the coup from above. In a word, you have all of the variations of the 'pronouncement' that you might possibly expect. And when you investigate them or when you look at them rationally, you find that they are false. There is a system behind them, there is an orchestration, revealing the existence of an organized plan worked out by some gentlemen who certainly are trying to reap dividends for themselves."

"And where do those rumors come from?"

"Some come from civilian sources and they are bound to come from those eternal presidential candidates or members of government juntas who have been out of action for 25 years but who have not given up their dream. They keep dreaming of delegated power, they are masochists of life who love to have somebody above them, politicians, because they have always lived politics although they keep claiming that they are 'apolitical' so that they can have some kind of label. They are a class that is disappearing but it does exist and it does manipulate."

"Could they not come from some other source?"

"Other rumors definitely come from military circles. This is a question of language and data. I do not believe--and this of course is quite clear--that this involves a large group of people, nor do I believe that these rumors are being echoed or accepted to the point where this should be cause for concern. But they obviously know how to orchestrate this thing and they have the means to do so by creating this environment which is both negative and preoccupying."

"What about the military threat which is contained in some of those rumors?"

"I believe in the solid institutionalization of the country's Armed Forces. Our Armed Forces have never been better equipped nor better taken care of, nor have they ever enjoyed as much public prestige as during this quarter of a century of democracy. They have gained this loving appreciation and

nationwide recognition and I am fully convinced that there is no fertile ground for adventure in our military establishment. Our officers know that Venezuela's future as a nation is outlined by the democratic way of life; they know that there are shortcomings and mistakes but they know that democracy itself offers the mechanisms for the correction of those mistakes without any additional traumas or suffering for our people."

"Furthermore," Lusinchi continued, "all Venezuelans, all of us are aware that the national issue cannot be left to adventure. In this sense, I am convinced that anybody who would try anything would face a determined nation united. The adventurers would really be in trouble if they should try anything. We are familiar with the way of violence, we have pointed them out many times, and most of the time they come from the hands of those who promote violence. In terms of scientific interpretation, we do not have the economic and social conditions for a dictatoralist experiment to have any chance of getting anywhere even halfway."

"And what results could that rumor campaign have?"

"I believe that this wave of rumors is damaging. It damages the institutional prestige which we have attained as a country; it introduces distrust among the fundamental factors when it comes to seeking better solutions, and it creates a climate that is not at all good for the attainment of essential objectives so as to achieve economic revival and social equilibrium."

"And what could be done to put an end to that kind of rumor?"

"The administration is obligated to specify the origin of those evil fairy tales. It has the means to do so. But this is a question of directing the search in a logical sense and not to look where one should not be looking. Nor does this involve an attempt to point out the responsibilities in those who, by plain old common sense, would have nothing to gain by promoting more distrust or by seeking to exploit institutional trouble. The lamentable thing is that men and resources that could serve to detect the precise origin of these things are being utilized for the attainment of obsessively electoral objectives. To summarize, we could tell the administration: Look into the other side."

Finally, when the newsman asked for a message for Venezuelans on this matter, the AD presidential candidate said:

"I condemn rumors because they are damaging and antinational. I believe that the administration has the obligation to specify the origin and objectives of these rumors and with courage to cut them off. I think that we, the people, should try to analyze or reason before serving as spokesmen for operations that do not benefit the common good."

Caldera on Rumors, Campaign Debates

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 21 Mar 83 p 2-1

[Article by Alirio Bolivar: "Caldera Condemns Rumors, Expresses Absolute Confidence in Armed Forces"]

[Text] Anyone who is unjustifiably crazy enough to divert the course which the popular will has charted for national

life will fail miserably. Eduardo Fernandez and Octavio Lepage will today try to lay the foundation for the public debates between Rafael Caldera and Jaime Lusinchi.

"Right now I do not know with what intention, nor with what origin concerted rumors are being launched, sometimes in such a way that they seem to be in line with a carefully prepared plan relating to the nation's situation and especially to the continuation, maintenance and strengthening of the country's democratic system. I do not deny that there are rumors. I admit the possibility that we have, what Romulo Betancourt called people who are nostalgic for the old situations of force to see whatever personal benefit they can derive from that, interested as they are in interrupting the country's democratic process."

These thoughts were expressed yesterday at noon by the COPEI [Social Christian Party] presidential candidate as he closed the meeting of naturalized citizens with Rafael Caldera in Central Park.

He said that he is convinced that the democratic system is strong in Venezuela, that this was not just the result of chance but rather the fruit of a profound conviction which, in civilian and military sectors, was based on the idea that life amid liberty is indispensable in obtaining prosperity and progress which our people aspires to and needs to achieve.

He stressed that he was profoundly convinced that rumors of this kind, involving unrestrained opposition, seek to create the idea that democracy cannot cope with the country's problems and he believes that, as happened many times in the past, all this will again pass by virtue of the vital experience of Venezuelan politics.

"I have absolute faith in that. I am fully confident that the people, no matter how much somebody might confuse them, will know that liberty is a precious gift and that losing it means much more than all of the other just and legitimate aspirations.

"I have absolute confidence in the loyalty of the National Armed Forces to the democratic system within which they have progressed in professional terms and have gained the respect and love of the population which they did not have when someone wanted to make them look like the agents of abuse, contempt, arbitrariness and like the forces of tyranny."

He restated his confidence that, as on other occasions, these rumors would vanish and, if there is anybody who should be unjustifiably crazy enough in some way to try to twist the course which the popular will has charted for the nation's life, he would meet with crushing defeat and the people's faith in the institutions and the country's faith in its destiny would be restored."

So-called solutions of force did not solve anything. Cultured countries, such as our brothers of the Southern Horn, at a given moment lost faith in liberty

and succumbed to the appearance of force. At the end of many years, the existing problems were considerably worse, solutions were still even more beyond reach, and after all of the suffering to which the people had been submitted, they looked for ways once again to start out on the road to democracy.

"I am convinced that Venezuelan democracy has specific possibilities for coping with current problems. I know that they do exist and that they are very difficult in some respects but I am sure that our people will understand the meaning of our election campaign which must chart the course for public life in strong, serious, and responsible hands. In the hands of somebody who has a profound knowledge and experience regarding national problems; in the hands of somebody who will not want just to satisfy personal ambitions or vanity, nor seek political revenge, but who will be ready fully to devote himself to cooperation with any and all suitable and honest Venezuelans.

"In this connection, I have invited presidential candidate Jaime Lusinchi, of the chief opposition party, to conduct a dialogue among us before the country and in front of the television cameras once a month on eight aspects which are fundamental so that each of us may explain his own analysis on those problems, the solutions he proposes to work out, and the goals which guide him in his aspiration to win the presidential election."

Caldera indicated that he was sure that a debate of this kind would satisfy the strong desire of the national majority to have the election campaign turn out to be significant and not superficial, as happened many times in the past in this sort of thing, nor should this deteriorate into a sterilizing diatribe to the poisoning of the air and to the embitterment of spirits through squabbling and bickering which definitely is of no interest to the nation's major sectors.

AD [Democratic Action Party] candidate Dr Jaime Lusinchi said that, more than this type of dialogue before public opinion, it is necessary to hold talks behind closed doors to try to work out formulas of concensus on immediate issues. One thing does not include the other.

"I am prepared to conduct any type of conversations that can help find formulas that are backed in a strong manner by the principal political, economic, and social forces, apart from the public debate and, if you will, without direct information coverage by the mass communications media. But I believe the country also has the right directly to find out what each of the men who aspire to government office and who can govern it really think."

He emphasized that the possibility of appearing in a broad form, before the entire Venezuelan community, must not be excluded from such conversations, so that everyone can speak out with a full knowledge of what is involved at the decisive moment when, through a particular brand, he imprints his will on the ticket that presents the various election options.

Caldera said that since, in principle the invitation to debate seems to have been accepted, he asked COPEI Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez today to invite the campaign manager of Jaime Lusinchi, Dr Octavio Lepage, to lay the foundations, to analyze the circumstances, and to satisfy this true desire which is a need and a legitimate aspiration of a vast majority of Venezuelans.

MAS LEADERS COMMENT ON COUP RUMORS

Secretary General Denounces Rumors

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 Mar 83 p D-6

[Text] The MAS- [Movement for Socialism] yesterday, through its Secretary General Pompeyo Marquez, attacked the fact that we are facing an orchestrated campaign of rumors of all kinds. The MAS identified the conduct of the administration and the contradictions within the administration as the main source of the rumors.

"We emphatically," he said, "proclaim that it is necessary to counteract such rumors, to break up the destabilization campaign, and to stress the need for a change in the administration's orientation and policy."

"The country cannot go on until 1984 the way it has been," he added. "It is in the interest of everyone seriously to tackle this grave moment. The MAS is a valid conversation partner in this difficult hour and has much to say about the topics under debate and dispute. On Monday, our presidential candidate, comrade Teodoro Petkoff, will address the country on television and will deliver a message through the most varied mass communications media.

"We hope that this opportunity will serve to reaffirm the fact that the way out of the big problems shaking Venezuela and its people is not a coup d'etat, that it does not call for the breakup of the process that began on 23 January 1958. Once again we stress the idea of demanding democratic developments in favor of the people. Teodoro Petkoff will speak along those lines."

Petkoff Views Political Situation

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 21 Mar 83 p 1-13

[Text] Teodoro Petkoff, the MAS presidential candidate, believes that one of the most eloquent manifestations of the rapid deterioration in the country's political situation, after the institution of exchange controls, is the force assumed by coupist rumors.

He pointed out that this situation is caused by various factors; first of all there is a kind of chronic coupitis but along with that there are the real difficulties which we face and which give rise to all kinds of whisperings and rumors.

On top of all that--and this perhaps is the most dangerous aspect--there are sectors which consciously and openly are working not so much to bring about a coup d'etat but to create a coupist climate.

Petkoff rejected the arguments according to which left-wing sectors could be involved in a similar situation and such accusations are nothing but a red rag that is waved before the bull of the coup.

He said that the paper that was published, demanding a new administration, can be explained only as a conspiracy, such as the one which he is denouncing, because he cannot understand what sense it would make to call for a new government in a country which is nine months away from the elections.

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AD LEADERS MEET WITH HERRERA CAMPINS

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 Mar 83 p A-1

[Interview with Manuel Penalver: "Prospects for National Coordination Opened"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Manuel Penalver indicated that the destabilization of the Democratic system was not discussed during the meeting.

The top leaders of the Democratic Action Party, Gonzalo Barrios, chairman, Manuel Penalver, secretary-general, and Jaime Lusinchi, presidential candidate, arrived quite by surprise at 1850 at Miraflores in response to an invitation from the President of the Republic Luis Herrera Campins, admitting that they did not know what points were going to be taken up.

They left at 2035 and, in his capacity as spokesman for the invited guests, Manuel Penalver noted that the meeting revolved around an open agenda during which various domestic and international issues were addressed.

[Answer] We talked about the 1984 budget so as to agree on the various technical commissions.

[Question] Did you take up the rumors about the destabilization of democracy?

[Answer] We did not talk about anything like that (He replied sharply). The country is going through an economic crisis. But I personally believe in the electoral outcome next December.

[Question] Can you tell us whether this meeting is the start of the national consensus?

[Answer] The call issued by candidate Jaime Lusinchi is aimed at that; the start of conversations with all political, business, and labor union forces.

[Question] And what about the public document of the employers in which they express their concern over the country's future?

[Answer] That document contains a series of worries which exist in the environment, that is, uncertainty and lack of economic confidence. All of this

has to be channeled within the democratic game. But we did not discuss that.

(Penalver commented that, for the fourth consecutive year, they asked the president of the republic to revive the economy and they confirmed that in this conversation. He went out looking for Gonzalo Barrios and Jaime Lusinchi who were looking at the panorama of The Silence. On the way, the minister of the Secretariat of the Office of the President, Gonzalo Garcia Bustillos, happened to run into them and they talked briefly; they took their leave of each other among hugs and smiles and, on entering the palace, Garcia Bustillos practically repeated what Manuel Penalver had said, indicating that he could not go into any detail on all of the aspects taken up at the meeting.)

[Question] Will a meeting of the other parties be called?

[Answer] The administration always talks to all sectors that represent national life.

[Question] Did the meeting take up the document of the employers where they ask for an office to be set up to take care of this emergency?

[Answer] What communication? (He asked with astonishment.)

(A newsman took the complete page out of his briefcase. He read a paragraph to him.)

[Answer] Ah! Somebody told me that the language and style are quite important here.

(He asked to be excused because, as he said, President Herrera was waiting to see him.)

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AD CAMPAIGN MANAGER DENOUNCES LECTURES FOR ARMED FORCES

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 21 Mar 83 p 1-15

[Text] Jose Manzo Gonzalez says: "The Armed Forces cannot be manipulated." The strategy chief of the National Election Headquarters of AD [Democratic Action Party] points out that the lectures which government officials, with an interested official view and exclusively from the partisan viewpoint, have been offering in the Armed Forces are inconvenient for the proper operation of the military establishment.

Jose Manzo Gonzalez, the strategy boss of the national election campaign headquarters of Dr Jaime Lusinchi, delcared that he was in favor of the idea that the administration of President Luis Herrera Campins suspend the cycle of lectures which some high officials in his administration have been offering at various installations of the Armed Forces.

Jose Manzo Gonzalez believes that such lectures are inconvenient since--apart from trying to demonstrate a presumed lack of knowledge on the part of members of the Armed Forces about the country's real situation, something which is not at all certain--it has also been demonstrated that these lectures cause damage to harmony and to the basic principles of authority, discipline, and the chain of command which unalterably prevail within the military establishment.

Jose Manzo Gonzalez said that he had been informed that a verbal incident arose at one of these lectures between a senior navy officer and an army general.

Jose Manzo Gonzalez explained that it is impossible to pretend to believe that the FAN [National Armed Forces] can be manipulated by any political force, noting that lectures, such as the one by the lady minister who is chief of CORDIPLAN [Office of Coordination and Planning], were given only as an official and sectarian version, presenting a view of the economic crisis exclusively from the partisan viewpoint.

"The officers of the Armed Forces," Jose Manzo Gonzalez explained, "are for the most part professionals. Many of them are even graduates of our universities in the technological and humanistic careers. They raised their technical, professional, and cultural levels; they therefore are familiar with the nation's problems. That knowledge is being developed in depth during the training given

to the cadets at the various academies and later on in the higher-level schools. This training is sufficiently broad to give them a knowledge of the country's real situation and the features of its problem complex. It is therefore absurd to claim that officers are not familiar with the country's real situation."

Manzo Gonzalez said that he himself is not at any moment opposed to the idea that the Armed Forces be informed in a detailed manner on certain major national problems but what has turned out to be inconvenient is that this information is presented to them from the interested official viewpoint and from the partisan viewpoint.

He added, on the other hand, that this type of lecture most of the time interrupts the professional and administrative operations of the Armed Forces; he also explained that there is a chain of command and that there is discipline in the military establishment which is why it is inconvenient to put generals and admirals, senior officers, junior officers, and professional career NCO's together in the same bag.

At that point he reported that he had knowledge of a verbal incident that took place between a senior navy officer and an army general who had different opinions on some of the points taken up during one of the lectures given in the auditorium of the Military School.

Manzo Gonzalez also said that the planning of this type of lecture, as a regular event in the activities of the National Armed Forces, hurts the harmony that has always prevailed among them, thus constituting the ferment for highly inconvenient situations when it comes to enabling the FAN to carry out the high missions assigned to them by the Constitution. By way of example, lady minister Izaguirre in her lecture mentioned the difficulty connected with paying the pensions and social benefits for the officers; this created profound uneasiness. In this connection, the Finance Committee of the Congress of the Republic must adopt the measures necessary so as to guarantee that right which has been acquired by the members of the FAN in accordance with the 1977 Social Security Law.

On the other hand, Jose Manzo Gonzalez said finally, "The FAN are not being manipulated, nor do they need to be manipulated, which is why this attempt by the current administration is inexplicable."

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COPEI SECRETARY ON RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT, OTHER ISSUES

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 Mar 83 p D-6

[Article by Leopoldo Linares: "There Are Certain Interests that Seek to Weaken Venezuela"]

[Text] Eduardo Fernandez and the Rumors. In evaluating relations between party and government, the leader admits that this is a problem which has not yet been solved by the Venezuelan democratic institutional system.

We Venezuelans would be very stupid if we were not to grasp the fallacy, the lies that surround the suggestion that we could solve our problems with a system different from the democratic system. Could it be that we do not know our own history? Is it true by any chance that we do not know that the most deplorable periods in the country's history were those when force was imposed in place of civilizations and systems based on law? Do we not recall that those regimes, which offered to solve problems, far from doing so, only piled them up and made them worse?

That was the thinking of COPEI [Social Christian Party] Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez when he was questioned about the rumor campaign hinting at a hypothetical forced solution in the country. The Social Christian leader added that, if this does not sound like much, we Venezuelans should review the situation on the continent, especially in South America, where so-called military regimes are in power and where a process of democratization has been imposed.

Fernandez also took up with the newsman the so-called relationships between the party and the government, pointing out that this is a problem that has not yet been solved during those past 25 years of democracy. In his judgment, this solution is difficult due to the country's presidential system and due to the fact that the Venezuelan political parties are designed on the basis of or come from the old Leninist models.

Yesterday noon, Eduardo Fernandez was in a hurry to leave the headquarters of candidate Rafael Caldera, located in El Rosal. He met the newsman there and agreed to comment on the wave of rumors which in recent days has engulfed the country's population.

"I believe that we must act very calmly, with a great degree of patriotism, and with a sincere readiness to do the things that are necessary to strengthen the faith and confidence of public opinion in the overall functioning of the institutions and in our capacity satisfactorily to solve the problems," said Fernandez.

Then he pointed out that the two most important issues facing the country today are as follows: First of all, that the entire country, especially its most responsible leadership sectors, must become aware of the dimension of the problem that Venezuela must face, particularly the nature and characteristics of that problem.

"We must be aware," Fernandez emphasized, "that a phase in Venezuelan life has come to an end. This is what some people have called the economy of delirium. This is what Rafael Caldera has called the economy of waste and plunder.

In second place, Fernandez said that, along with the diagnosis "which enables us to become aware of the difficulties we must face, it is necessary to have adequate therapy, that is to say, we have to find out what proposals we must formulate to overcome the obstacles that have arisen before us on our way."

He emphasized that those obstacles are fundamentally of an international character. As an example he mentioned the change on the petroleum market, both in terms of output volume and in terms of prices which failed to rise as they had in the past.

"Now," added the COPEI secretary general, "we have awakened to a much more substantive and less artificial reality, we have seen that the oil market is once again going to be dominated by the consuming nations, that is to say, by the highly industrialized countries. There is a tendency to toward a stabilization or decline in oil output and a stabilization or drop in prices. For Venezuela this means, first of all, that we must replace the culture of abundance with the cultural of work, discipline, and austerity; that all excesses, which we allowed ourselves in recent years, cannot go on. Now, to promote this effort successfully, we must strengthen the climate of domestic understanding by establishing a climate of political relaxation in which the people can see that we, their political leaders, are capable of agreeing on the most essential issues that beset the country. Not that we are going to do away with debate because it is indispensable and democracy presupposes a confrontation of ideas and viewpoints."

Eduardo Fernandez emphasized that the best antidote to rumors is the type of conduct and testimony that seeks to strengthen faith in the country's institutions. He also stated that, in that climate, it is necessary not only for political leaders to commit themselves but also the business and industry, labor, and cultural sectors.

Then he mentioned the fallacy and lies involved in the old fairy tale to the effect that a regime of force could solve the country's problems. He spelled out not only Venezuela's experience in the past but also talked about the cases of Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and recently Brazil, where democratic

solutions have been imposed or are being worked out after long years of government by force.

"Do you believe that there is an organized rumor campaign going on in Venezuela?"

"Here in Venezuela as a matter of fact we have had an irresponsible campaign pushed by various sectors inside and outside the country which, first of all, wanted to weaken the nation's currency. Some cooperated in this campaign without knowing it because obviously no nation can for many long weeks allow a discussion on the stability of the currency without this affecting the economy. I believe that we have had some interest here which tried to weaken Venezuela because Venezuela, in the final analysis, is a country that leads in two aspects: in its capacity as an oil exporter and in its capacity as an exporter of democracy. There are many interests on the far right and the far left that would like Venezuela not to have the full strength which it has at this moment in order to play the role that falls to it."

Relations Between Party and Administration

The newsman reminded him that relations between the current chief of state and the Social Christian Party, COPEI, were again analyzed last Thursday during the meeting held in the presidential home at "La Guzmania."

"Why was this analysis repeated?"

"One of the things that Venezuela has not managed to resolve is precisely the problem you raised, the problem of the nature of relationships between the president and his administration and the political party that brought him to power and which serves as a foundation and support in the streets. And I would say even more so not only in Venezuelan democracy but also in Latin America where this in general has been a difficult question. There are those who assure us, for example, that the downfall of President Salvador Allende took place several days after the military high command involved in the conspiracy in Chile came to know the document of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party through which political support was withdrawn from the president of the republic."

"And what are the shortcomings here, in Venezuela?"

"We in Venezuela have the following basic contradiction: We have a constitutional, presidential system, copied from the liberal and bourgeois systems that are typical of Western Europe; and we have some political parties whose essential design in some way was copied from the Leninist party model. The bad thing is that when a party is Leninist, power is concentrated in the party's central committee and more specifically in that party's secretary general and the administration responds to and obeys the orders of the central committee. On the other hand, in the Western democracies, the presidents have the power that is attributed to them by the Constitution, which permits them to exercise a force which goes far beyond the influence and control which the party can exert. In the specific Venezuelan case, the presidents furthermore are ritual which, basically, means confirming the constitutional standard.

Fernandez said that "the important thing is to preserve a level of frank, sincere, and democratic dialogue; that the party can express to the president with full clarity what it learns from the streets and that at the same time the president informs not only the party but consults it to obtain elements of judgment that can help him in the process through which he must make his decisions." Fernandez also said that the party has the obligation to explain and defend the policies which the administration pursues, provided that, "those policies are contained within the common commitment, which is the program that is offered to the electorate during the corresponding elections."

In this last respect, he recalls that COPEI has been loyal to and strongly supportive of the administration, giving as example the support given at all times within parliament.

"But," Fernandez concluded, "the basic problem is the problem of the nature of the relationships between the party and the administration and particularly with the president of the republic; that is a problem which the Venezuelan democratic institutional system has not yet managed to solve satisfactorily."

"And does this mean that current relations are not good?"

"Relations are always dynamic. I believe that there is a level of dialogue, of exchange and of information which sometimes is satisfactory but which on occasions is not fully satisfactory."

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CONSECOMERCIO PRESIDENT VIEWS SUPPLY SHORTAGES, STRIKES

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 21 Mar 83 p 1-13

[Article by Thamara Nieves: "Executive Branch Indecision Paralyzes Country"]

[Text] On "Impact" Raul Lopez alerts us to a "major" supply shortage during the next few days, as well as escalation of inflation as a result of governmental ambiguity about the private foreign debt. "We are witnessing," said the president of CONSECOMERCIO [National Commerce and Services Council], "not only exchange controls but also a gradual devaluation. The trouble into which the country was plunged will force the executive branch to stop governing all alone and in isolation."

Raul Lopez, president of the National Council of Commerce and Services, announced that "the dramatically difficult situation we are experiencing now will force the administration to stop governing by itself and in isolation, disregarding the rest of the country."

Raul Lopez thought that the appeal issued both by Jaime Lusinchi and Rafael Caldera--urging the administration to think deeply and that "sound" conclusions be worked out together with the opinion of all sectors--is a positive thing.

He proved to be optimistic in spite of the fact that "the mess into which the country has been led and the difficult situation we are experiencing, this will encourage all of us to sit down together and seek conclusions."

The CONSECOMERCIO president, who was interviewed on the program "Impacto," which is being presented on Channel 4 by the newsmen Carlos Croes and Edgardo de Castro, very sharply questioned the attitude which was adopted in relation to the recognition of the private foreign debt both by the president of the republic, the minister of finance, and of course the president of the Central Bank.

In view of this disregard of the private foreign debt as a sector benefiting the preferential dollar rate of 4.30, Lopez predicted a "major" supply shortage at the very latest within 30 days.

In his opinion, we are at this moment facing two distinct aspects: exchange controls and devaluation because, as a matter of fact, there is a gradual devaluation "which was logical and already expected."

Living on Inventories

The CONSECOMERCIO president denied that the announcement of the strike in the sector he represents is "a trial balloon" designed to pressure the administration. In his opinion, this is "something spontaneous" in response to the dispair of merchants.

Answering a question, he explained that the private foreign debt is not recognized because--although the president of the republic, in his message to Congress, ratified it and the minister of finance restated it--the president of the Central Bank does not accept it. In other words, it was accepted as a sector benefiting from the preferential dollar rate, but in a very vague manner.

"It was said that this would broaden the coverage and this may be so and then again it may not. Through the president of the republic and the finance minister, the national executive must ratify Decree 1.842 and must in concept terms say "We accept the private debt," ratifying the first decree and adding the regulations for it.

"This debt is not expressed in quantitative terms," he said, "because it is somewhat complex but rather because, at any rate, it is much smaller than the public debt which is indeed a product of waste and the practice of selling at low prices." According to the CONSECOMERCIO president, this attitude on the part of the administration means that the prestige of Venezuelan businessmen is downgraded abroad in a critical situation "because it represents a dangerous loss in our balance with a retroactive character and will in the end lead us into bankruptcy."

Concerning the possibility that there might be a strike in this sector as a protest against government treatment, he said that this is not an alarmist position.

"As president of CONSECOMERCIO and in a very responsible manner I assure you that a major supply shortage of all kinds is just around the corner and it will include food, pharmaceutical products, auto spare parts which are so necessary for the nation's motor vehicles, hardware and construction materials, as well as all kinds of things."

He blamed this state of affairs on the fact that, for about six or eight months, inventories, both in industry and in commerce, have been declining due to low liquidity, lack of confidence, and high expectations.

"To this you have to add that, as a result of this ill-timed policy of not recognizing the private foreign debt, foreign industry and trade deny us credits, expressing lack of confidence in the country, and this alone leads to the demand for cash payment which is highly fatal and deadly for our economy."

According to Raul Lopez, to all of this we must add "the magnification of what is called bureaucratic and government deficiency," "the indecision of an executive branch which paralyzes the country," "thus paralyzing our foreign trade almost within a month."

In view of this situation, he was asked where the products, which we are consuming, came from; he replied: "From our squalid inventories."

According to his explanation, we are not importing because we do not yet know what is officially prohibited and what will have to be paid for at 4.30 or at 6 or at 8, and how the stuff is going to be sold.

"It has not been established how you, in acquiring the dollars, will not be turned down abroad. We are facing a very serious situation to the point where, this month, no products have come in, nor have there been any orders going abroad. This lag of 4, 3, 2, or 1 week is what we are going to have during the next several days because right now we are living on the inventories and our inventories are drawing to a close."

Importing Everything

In this situation, Lopez singled out the food sector as the most critical area where, as he predicted, the supply shortage will be "terrible."

"Here we import everything from raw materials for processing concentrated fodder for animals," he said, "all the way to cereals and containers for processed foods. This importing of food exceeds 65 percent."

He believes that we are facing not only exchange controls but also a gradual devaluation "because one line would trigger the failure of all enterprises; right now, half of them can fail but in one line, all of them would fail." Then he said that "what CONSECOMERCIO is asking for is the preferential dollar for the private debt, as was done for the public debt, since, when it comes to future imports, we do not demand, we do not beg, nor are we haggling."

In his answer regarding what would happen after the end of the price freeze, he pointed out that we will be punishing the consumer--"which is unfair and painful"--depending on whether we have more products in the 8 category or in the 6 category and less in the 4.30 category.

Consumer Will Pay

"What will happen when the price freeze ends?"

"The government can ask me that, if I purchase at 4.30, I have to sell in relation to 4.30, just as they can demand the same thing if I purchase at 8 and then I sell at 8, in that same ratio. But the government cannot demand that, if I purchase at 8, I sell at the ratio of 4.30 and that is what is implied in this freeze measure."

Who Abuses Power?

Concerning the investigation of the bare fact that CONSECOMERCIO petitioned against Migdalia Garcia, the lady superintendent for consumer protection, Lopez said that he admitted that there had been cases of speculation "and we agree in cooperating with the Superintendency against this sort of thing" but he pointed out that, in many cases, it is the administration itself which is causing hoarding.

He repeated that a businessman cannot be forced to sell something unless he has first been told how he is going to pay for it and how he is going to sell it afterwards. "He is not a hoarder, he is an individual who, in his desire for subsistence, is defending the only thing he has" and this situation in his judgment springs from the lack of definition in the executive branch itself, on the part of the ministers of the economy.

"Now there is something that is going to be inevitable and that is a terrible escalation of inflation which will not involve only gasoline but all products because of this gradual devaluation of the bolivar."

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BRIEFS

HERRERA, CALDERA ON BRUZUAL'S RESIGNATION-- Just 2 days ago, Rafael Caldera asked for the resignation of Central Bank of Venezuela President Leopoldo Diaz Bruzual "for the good of the country." Yesterday morning, the chief of state and the presidential candidate of COPEI [Social Christian Party] talked about this matter. It was learned that the chief executive called Caldera on the phone very early and that they exchanged opinions. It seems that President Herrera offered to seek a solution. On the other hand, the Social Christian Party formally expressed to the chief of state its desire that the official in charge of the bank of issue withdraw from this important office. He expressed the opinion that the attitude of Diaz Bruzual is now "unacceptable" and that it has become a disturbing factor. Besides, they feel that he did not act in accordance with administration policies, especially regarding the implementation of exchange controls. According to Article 137 of its bylaws, COPEI can ask for the resignation of a militant who holds a government job. If Diaz Bruzual does not act on this request, he can be suspended from his militant party membership and he can be turned over to the Disciplinary Court. He could even be expelled from the organization. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p A-1] 5058

RIOTS AT SAN CARLOS BARRACKS--On the morning of 25 February, authorities at San Carlos barracks had to break the chain and padlocks which personnel arrested for the crime of rebellion had placed on the doors leading to the detention area to deny access to any authority at the barracks. The intervention of the authorities was confronted violently by the convicts using cold steel, other big objects, and Molotov cocktails. Some of the convicts were wounded as a result and many spoons, pikes, home-made lances, bars, Molotov cocktails, hammers, and other big objects were confiscated. Various holes had been made in the roof and walls for the purpose of escape. This mutiny, like the earlier ones, according to the authorities, is part of a plan called "Combate II" for which many weapons and other stolen materials had been collected. The plan included alternate possibilities of escape: (a) from San Carlos Barracks; (b) during a transfer of prisoners to the hospital or in the Military Hospital itself. If the escape plan should fail, they would use the wounded to get political support through the leaders who are close to their cause and with front groups of the Red Banner, such as the National Defense Federation and its section committees, the National Coordinating Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners, and the new periodical of the Red Banner called SIN TREGUA. [Text] [Caracas ZETA in Spanish 13 Mar 83 pp 14-15] 5058